

Disability Now

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DN's a winner!
It's official – *Disability Now* is best! *DN* is Charity Publication of the Year after winning one of the 1994 Corporate Publishing Awards



Bedtime partners: Anne Marie Postma and bear at work in the Naidex fashion show. See page 22. GRAHAM BOOL PHOTOGRAPHY

European scheme in jeopardy

Britain is trying to pull out of funding a computer database that helps disabled people find the best facilities and equipment across the European Union (EU).

Health Minister Gerry Malone is considering scrapping financial support for the Handynet database. He has taken legal advice on whether the Department of Health (DoH) can withdraw from the scheme.

The Government only renewed its commitment to Handynet in July. It contributes £250,000 a year.

Mr Malone's move was disclosed last month in a letter from the DoH which asked disability groups to comment on the effects of withdrawal.

The letter describes the funding as "under threat" and warns that any savings would not necessarily be put back into projects for disabled people.

There are 15 Handynet centres in the UK. It was set up in 1988 as part of the EU's £28 million HELIOS programme,

which promotes integration and equal opportunities for disabled people.

The scheme is co-ordinated in the UK by the Disabled Living Foundation (DLF).

The database provides information on technical specifications of wheelchairs, prices of technical aids and suppliers.

Labour MEP Hugh McMahon, who is a member of the European All-Party Disablement Group (EAPDG) and the EU's Social Affairs and Employment Committee, said: "The Government's threat to pull the plug on the scheme is purely motivated to save money."

"Yet another British opt-out would not end the scheme but simply deprive British disabled people of its benefits."

continued page 2

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Education charity is to close

The Understanding Disability Educational Trust, whose videos and teaching packs have brought disability awareness to 700 schools and colleges, most educational authorities, and disability groups, is to close in February.

The charity has an annual budget of £107,000, but cannot cover its running costs. This year it was turned down for grants by the the Health and Education departments. An unsuccessful video for employers was another set back.

Donations from trusts and companies have helped to subsidise the training packs, but this was not enough.

The Trust's founder Mary-Anne Grant said: "I think we have done all we could. We are not a very cuddly cause."

The last project in December "will take us out with a smile."

Landmark victory

A carer who launched a judicial review of his local council's community care policy won a landmark case at the High Court in September.

Bill Hargreaves, 63, from Cawood, near Selby, took North Yorkshire social services' to court after it decided last December not to allow his severely disabled sister, Beryl, to stay at the respite care home she preferred.

He argued that the council was ignoring her freedom of choice, a central principle of the Government's community care plans.

The court judgement found that the council had failed "to properly ascertain" Beryl's preferences, which were to have holidays at Southport and Cambridge where she was

well cared for and felt happy.

Mr Justice Dyson ruled that the council had breached statutory guidance. He said the decision should be quashed.

The council will now have to pay the legal costs of the two-day hearing and re-assess Beryl's needs.

Mr Hargreaves said: "I am delighted. The council were wrong because they never asked her what her preferences were."

A council spokesperson said "We will decide what action should be taken after further considering Ms Hargreaves' preferences and other relevant circumstances."

Francine Bates of the Carers' National Association said: "We hope this will mean that councils give more consideration to the preferences of disabled people and carers."



Carl Freeman (left) and Craig Rerrie, from Westbrook School, Long Eaton, with Dr Nigel Foreman, head of the Virtual Reality Research Group at Leicester University. They are taking part in a three-year research project, funded by British Telecom, to investigate whether virtual reality can help children in wheelchairs to have a better understanding of their surroundings. But Craig's mother, Lisa, said: "To him it is just playing; playing and reality are different."

Handynet in jeopardy

continued from page 1

The scheme is currently being evaluated by the EU's Social Affairs and Employment Committee and The Tavistock Institute, an independent research unit.

Mr McMahon said: "Opinion about the scheme is divided. Some disabled people think it is very good, others believe the money would be better spent on more useful projects."

Sally Kneeshaw of the Royal National Institute for the Blind said: "The scheme must be retained. It provides useful infor-

mation for blind people."

But Bert Massie, director of RADAR, said: "This money would be better spent on practical help for disabled people."

"But the DLF needs protecting. It has spent a lot of time and money on the project."

The DLF was tightlipped about what effect Handynet's closure would have on its future, but a spokesperson conceded: "It would be bad news for us."

Gerry Malone said: "Handynet has failed to deliver results. It would be ludicrous not to review all options. Views of disability groups will be taken into consideration."

Guide for employers

A comprehensive guide to help employers recruit, train and develop disabled people has been launched by the Employers' Forum on Disability (EFD).

The *Action File* is a large, ring-file document covering such things as legislation, the working environment, disabled people as customers and shareholders and case histories. Updates are planned.

Phil Friend, one of four disabled advisers to the project, said he thought employers would read it, though he feared the

Lollipop men and women in Merseyside now face being disciplined if they help disabled people or pensioners across the road.

Guidelines drawn up by Knowsley, Sefton and Wirral metropolitan borough councils bar the staff from helping anyone over the age of 11.

The councils say that if they do, they will be in breach of the law and, in the event of an accident, liable to pay possible compensation claims from motorists.

The only way lollipop men and women can help pensioners and disabled people is to wait until a child arrives at the kerbside.

The proposed regulations are being introduced because the responsibility for school crossing patrols on Merseyside has been switched from the police to local councils.

A spokesperson for Sefton metropolitan borough council said: "Our proposed guidelines will include advice that, legally-speaking, our staff are not to help adults cross the road."

"But, if they feel they need to help pensioners or disabled people, they can wait until a child also needs to cross."

"We feel that lollipop men and women are there to help children and it makes their jobs a lot more difficult and the chances of an accident greater if they have to help older people as well."

An Age Concern spokesperson said: "We are amazed and saddened at this blatant example of ageism."

"Councils should be trying to improve community spirit, not creating difference between younger and older people. We strongly urge the councils to think again."

Doggone shame

A Guide Dogs for the Blind Association branch in Newbury, Berkshire, has had to close after its treasurer and secretary ran off with thousands of pounds.

Disability Now

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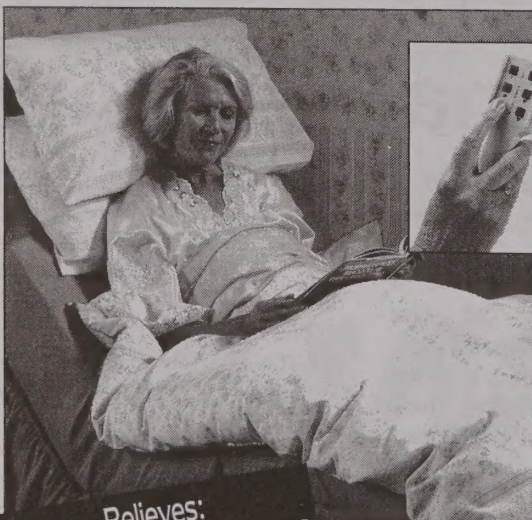
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NI firms fall short

A survey by the Northern Ireland Employers' Forum on Disability shows firms in the Province falling short of the 3 per cent quota set for employing disabled people. On average, only 1.5 per cent of employees in a company had disabilities and only 0.7 per cent were registered disabled. The survey coincided with the launch last month of a campaign by the umbrella group Rights Now to ban discrimination in the Province.

Home Office hash

The Home Office refused to allow an American with glaucoma into the country last month because he used cannabis on prescription. Robert Randall, from Washington DC, uses the drug to stop him going blind.

Charity struck off

A charity that raised more than £200,000 a year for disabled children has been struck off the charities register after spending most of the money on travel and wages. The Charity Commission said that, while there was no evidence of fraud, the Welsh Heart and Handicapped Children's Society was guilty of "inefficient administration and lack of prudent financial management".

Hotel thwarted

A hotel in Tenby, west Wales, has had a £220,000 conversion to help disabled people refused by planners. The Fourcroft Hotel planned to build a ramp to allow wheelchair access, extra-wide doors, toilets and special bedrooms. It was opposed on the grounds that it would ruin the hotel's Georgian façade. Manager Chris Osbourne called the decision "crazy".

Post Office helpline

The Post Office has launched a trial helpline for deaf people. The scheme uses the Textphone system – a telephone with a keyboard and display screen – to enable deaf people to ring up with queries. Based in Glasgow, the helpline will serve the whole country.

Tel: (0345) 223355.

What's in DN next month?

- The Channel Tunnel – DN goes to Brussels
- Christmas special – gifts, toys, fashion, recipes
- David Griffiths at the Motorshow
- Scope relaunch – full-colour supplement

Charities face new guidelines

New guidelines on the amount of cash charities can hold in reserve are being drawn up by The Charity Commission.

The move is in response to concerns that some charities are sitting on hundreds of millions of pounds while less high profile organisations struggle to survive.

The Guide Dogs for the Blind Association (GDBA) has £160 million in reserve. This is partly as a result of money-spinning campaigns, legacies and donations. In contrast, The Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) had to use its reserves last year to make up a £1.4 million shortfall.

Despite the surplus, the GDBA is about to start a cinema advertising campaign highlighting its services in the next few weeks.

A GDBA spokesperson said: "We are proud of our prudent housekeeping which has helped us to build our reserves over the past decades.

"Our policy on reserves has been to invest rather than spend out legacies in order to ensure that clients can be guaranteed a guide dog throughout their life. It is totally wrong to describe our reserves as 'spare'."

The Commission's guidelines

will suggest ways in which charities should use their reserves. This may include charities being urged to scale down their appeals for further donations or helping services for blind people such as education, training and home help.

More than 160 charities will be consulted before the guidelines are published next year.

* The Government is planning to block a judgment made by the House of Lords, which extended the eligibility of blind people to higher benefits.

The ruling was made in April when Eric Mallinson, a blind man from Manchester, argued successfully that he should be entitled to claim the care component of Disability Living Allowance to pay for a guide when visiting unfamiliar places.

It was expected to help thousands of other blind people. But a Government circular sent to members of disability appeal tribunals says a bill will be introduced to "counteract" the effect of the ruling.

A RNIB spokesperson said: "We are very worried about this circular. It would be disgraceful if the Government subverted this important ruling and deprived people of some much-needed benefit."

New cash hope for workers

Doctors are to re-examine 10,000 industrial workers who could be entitled to compensation and disability benefit.

The Department of Social Security (DSS) has agreed to recall all applicants who have failed to qualify for payments related to mucous membrane disease, a congestive condition caused by irritants in industrial solvents, vapour and dust.

The disease most often

affects workers in the shipbuilding and chemical processing industries.

The move follows a successful campaign by the Trades Union Congress and ear, nose and throat specialists in the north east of England, where the condition is most common.

Successful applicants will receive lump sums of between £3,000 and £20,000 plus a weekly disability pension.

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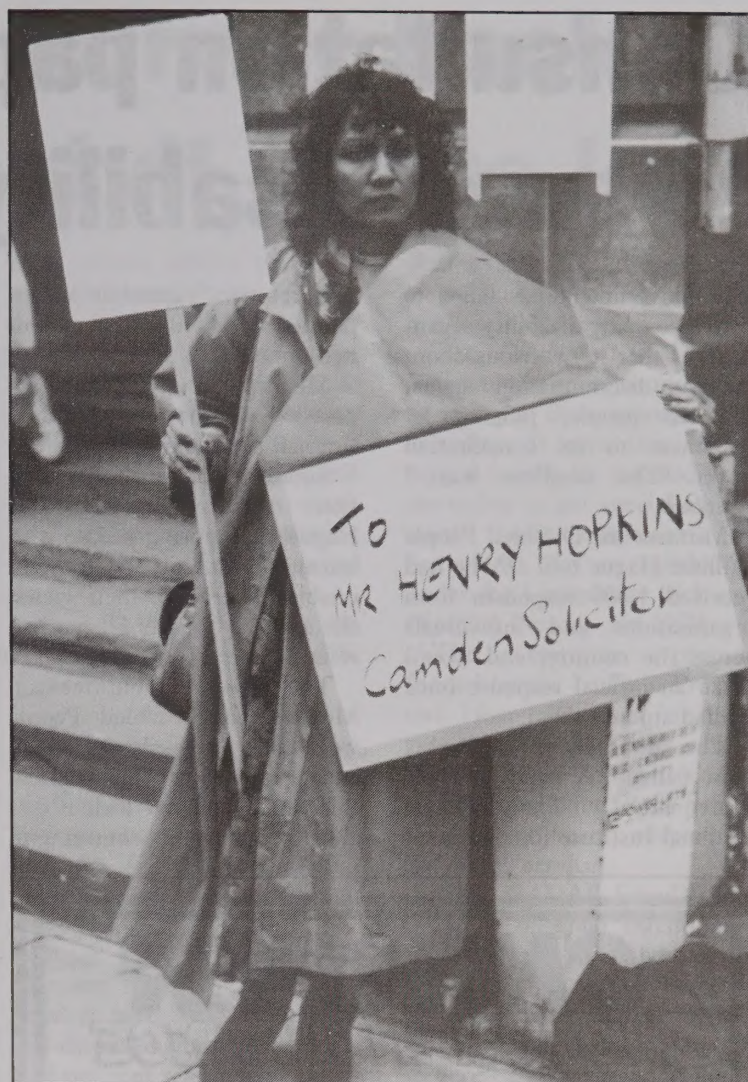
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Preethi Manuel demonstrates outside Camden Council, north London, over legal action being taken against her and the magazine *New Learning Together*. Ms Manuel, whose daughter Zahrah is disabled, wrote a poem in the magazine critical of the council's policy on integration in schools, and made comments about council officers. A spokesperson for Camden said the council was seeking a written apology from the magazine.

NIC PATON

Remploy deal averts strike

Workers at Remploy, which employs more than 8,700 disabled people at 95 workshops, have voted to accept a 2.5 per cent pay rise, after threatening strike action (DN September).

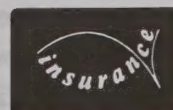
A consortium of unions, including the GMB and the TGWU, also persuaded bosses to drop plans to cut sick leave, put workers on shift patterns and change working conditions.

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Consultation paper fails to sway disability groups

The Government has failed to convince many disability organisations that it is serious about tackling discrimination against disabled people, judging by responses to its consultation paper. The deadline was 7 October.

Minister for Disabled People William Hague told *DN* he had received 1,000 responses from organisations and individuals across the country, and would make an official response once he had studied them.

The umbrella group Rights Now called the paper "totally inadequate". The Royal National Institute for the Blind

said it was "extremely disappointed" at the document's limited outlook.

Mencap warned that the proposed National Disability Council could end up toothless.

Simone Aspis of the Integration Alliance attacked Mr Hague for ignoring people with learning difficulties. Many were unable to write in their views, she argued, but Mr Hague had refused to meet groups.

The Joint Committee on Mobility for Disabled People welcomed proposals on access and employment, but warned this would "achieve little if disabled people were continuing to

be discriminated against in education and training".

Steve Wood, chairman of Clywd Association for Disability, said: "The consultation document talks of 'tolerance' and 'help' for disabled people. This is not what we're asking for."

The Trades Union Congress welcomed Government proposals to act as an opinion former but urged MPs to pass legislation "they can be proud of".

The Conservative Disability Group backed the paper but urged consistency. Its response said: "We don't want a different set of rules in different corners of the same playing field."



Wheels of fortune: Chris Hallam, MBE, nears Swansea on the sixth leg of the Steel Wheels Can Challenge last month. The 800-mile, nationwide "push" involved more than 50 athletes in an effort to raise money for the British Wheelchair Sports Foundation and promote aluminium can recycling. ALEX CAVERN

Elderly lifers get own jail

Elderly prison inmates will soon find themselves housed in Britain's first purpose-built "pensioners' wing".

The wing, in Kingston Jail, Portsmouth, will have its own wheelchair ramps, non-slip baths and raised beds.

Candidates for the wing will be chosen from 136 lifers. There are currently 3,000 prisoners over 65 in British jails.

The abolition of the death penalty is one reason behind the initiative. Prisoners who might have once faced the gallows are now living to a ripe old age. The oldest is 83.

Stress causes needs

Stress within families is causing increasing behavioural problems among schoolchildren, according to a confidential report to Government ministers.

The report, leaked to *The Guardian*, said 37,500 more children than expected had received statements of special needs last year. It pinpoints

economic recession as one of the prime causes of stress between family members.

The report also calls into question claims by the Centre for Studies on Inclusive Education that segregation of pupils in schools will increase as more schools take charge of their own budgets (*DN* October).

NHS chairs not up to scratch

National Health Service wheelchairs fail to meet the most basic needs of disabled people, according to a report published in September by The Spastics Society.

Wheel Power? says disabled people are often left struggling with old or unsafe equipment.

It calls for powered outdoor chairs to be made available according to need, more local audits to be carried out, and a code of practice on assessment, repairs and complaints.

Wheel Power? Case Studies from users and providers of the NHS wheelchair services, £3, tel: 071-636 5020.

Don't forget! Personalised *DN* Christmas cards are available from The Spastics Society (soon to be Scope) 1994 catalogue. Write to Spastics Shops Ltd, PO Box 66, Burton upon Trent DE14 1BR, tel: (0283) 506506 and say you are a *DN* reader.

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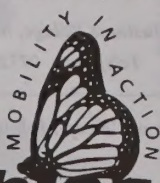
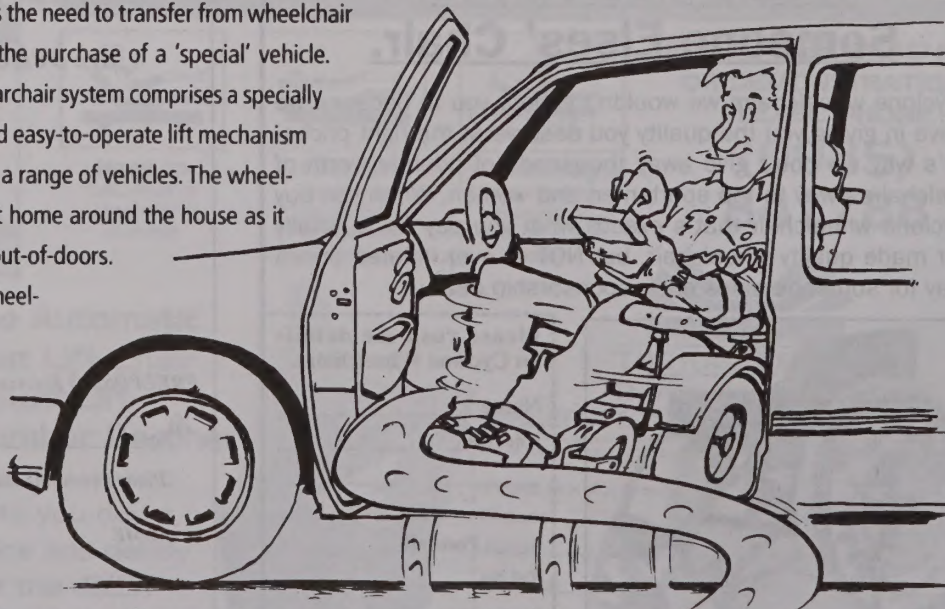
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DWA fails to help job hunters

A benefit launched two years ago to help disabled people get into a job has attracted only a fraction of the claimants expected.

A study by the independent Policy Studies Institute for the Department of Social Security revealed that only 200 disabled people said they had taken a job because they knew they would be able to claim Disability Working Allowance (DWA).

Only 4,300 people have been granted the means-tested benefit, which tops up low wages of disabled people by an average £35 a week. When launched in 1992, ministers said they expected 50,000 claimants. The study said most people getting DWA were already in work and that as few as 200 of them have taken jobs because of it.

Pauline Thompson of the Disablement Income Group said: "It is the vicious means test, plus the fact that a minimum 16 hours a week has to be worked, that renders DWA ineffective."

Minister for Disabled People, William Hague, said the take-up was "disappointing".



DN reviewer Betty Peakin (left) and Henry Dopson of the Greenwich Association of Disabled People's Access Group had to be carried up a flight of stairs to enter the Titanic Exhibition at The National Maritime Museum last month. Access will be improved when the museum installs a lift next year. The exhibition runs from 4 November until 2 April 1995. Tel: 081-858 2240.

SARAH RIGBY

Irish appeal saves the day

A Northern Ireland charity has raised £7,000 to help five children with cerebral palsy (cp).

The Buddy Bear Trust, which runs a special school for children with cp in Dungannon, needed the money to bring a specially trained conductor from the Peto Institute in Budapest to take a new mother and baby class.

The conductor was due to start work at the school in

September, but the plan was halted when cash for her salary could not be found. Donations by local firms and the Irish public saved the day.

Thousands more are needed, however, to keep the school open. A spokesperson said: "It costs £15,000 to teach one child for a year. We get no Government grants and rely on public donations to keep us going."

Survey backs civil rights law

Most people believe the Government should bring in anti-discrimination legislation for disabled people, according to a Gallup poll carried out for the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation (RADAR).

Meanwhile, a RADAR report has revealed that many local authorities are not coming up to scratch with services for disabled people.

The Gallup poll of 1,056 people throughout the UK showed that:

- * 80 per cent felt the Government was not doing enough to ensure equal rights and opportunities for disabled people

- * 80 per cent said they believed that the Government should introduce anti-discrimination legislation

- * 56 per cent said they would be more likely to vote for a political party that brought in anti-discriminatory legislation

- * 86 per cent said it was important that public transport and public building were easily accessible for disabled people

- * 67 per cent said it was very important that the Government promoted integrated education.

RADAR's director Bert Massie said: "This provides

clear evidence of the strength of public support for comprehensive legislation."

The *Disabled People Have Rights* report takes council staff to task for their ignorance of disability. It says this is the biggest hurdle for disabled people trying to get special equipment, home adaptations or home help they are entitled to under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970.

The two-year project, funded by the Nuffield Provincial Hospitals Trust, investigated 700 complaints from disabled people, 91 per cent of which were about the provision of equipment, adaptations and home services.

While RADAR found "clear evidence of good intentions", these were "not necessarily translated into good practice".

The charity claims these cases are "the very tip of the iceberg" and suggests on-going disability awareness training for council staff. It plans to set up a unit that will advise disabled people who are having trouble getting services.

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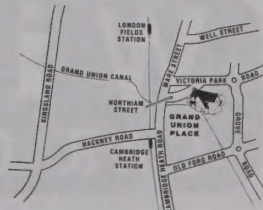
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Crowning glory: Heather Whitestone is the first disabled person to become Miss America. Ms Whitestone, who is hearing impaired, was crowned last month. PRESS ASSOCIATION

Childcare scheme slammed as 'a con'

Disabled parents on low incomes are being warned that they could be worse off if they take up a new Government assistance scheme.

It is estimated that 150,000 families will be eligible for the "childcare disregard" scheme, which was launched last month with a big television advertising campaign funded by the Department of Social Security.

Working parents who claim family credit, disability working allowance, housing benefit and council tax benefit can have up to £40 a week for childcare

deducted from the earnings figure used to calculate their entitlement to benefit.

Children must be aged 11 or under. Single parents are eligible, as are working couples and couples where one partner works and the other is "incapacitated".

The Child Poverty Action Group, however, claims the scheme is "a con" because the allowance is "insufficient". Spokesperson Beth Lakhani said many parents could find themselves out of pocket if they accept childcare disregard and put their children into nurseries

or with childminders. The group calculates average childminding costs at between £50 and £70 a week, whereas the maximum possible childcare benefit is £38.20.

Ms Lakhani said: "If parents are not working but then decide, as a result of Government publicity, to go to work, they could find that the childcare allowance is not going to pay for the extra costs."

Application forms from benefit agency offices, post offices and local authorities.

Never again, vows mum

The mother of a severely multiply-disabled child has vowed never again to visit a Butlin's holiday camp after a summer holiday turned into a nightmare.

Ros Collins, from Hitchin, Hertfordshire, took her six-year-old daughter Shannon, who has cerebral palsy, epilepsy and asthma, to the Butlin's "Funcoast World" at Skegness in August. They found no wheelchair access to

toilet or shower facilities, no facilities for disabled children in the adventure park, and no proper changing facilities for disabled people at the pool.

"It was a complete disaster. We will not go back."

Butlin's customer liaison manager Tina Cross said disabled people could ring a helpline when booking and Mrs Collins should have investigated the brochure more carefully.



Ros Collins with Shannon

Banks taken to task

Banks and building societies have come under fire from the Royal National Institute for the Blind (RNIB) for failing to provide adequate facilities for blind and visually impaired people.

The RNIB wants all financial correspondence to be available in a variety of formats

including braille and tape.

RNIB business development manager Mike Hartshorne said: "Some banks like Midland, Barclays and Lloyds provide statements in braille but they are in a minority and there is a lot more to be done to help blind and visually impaired customers."

The NISSAN & RENAULT

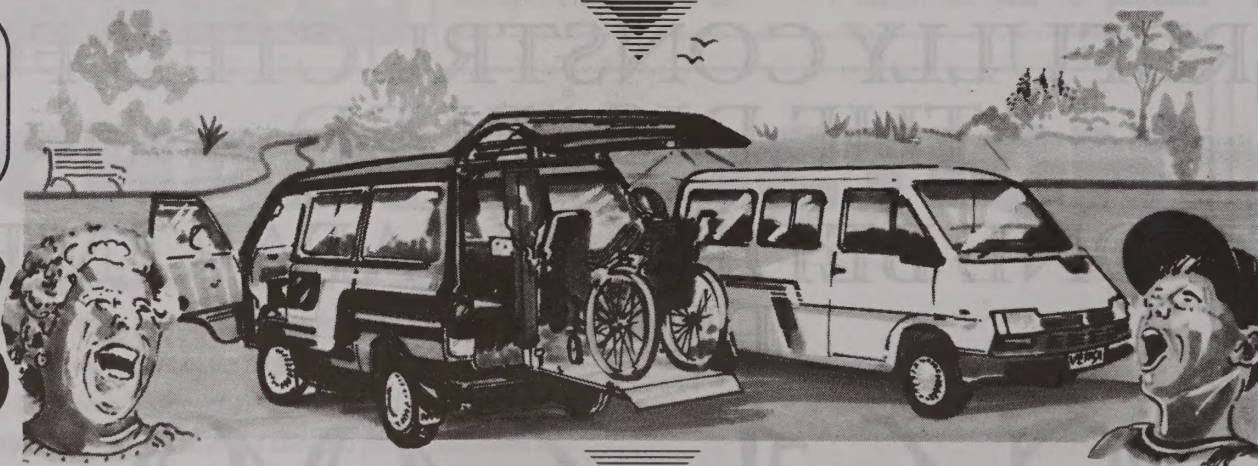


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IN BRIEF

Care gap widens

Health professionals are failing to meet the needs of young people who have had a stroke, according to a report by The Stroke Association (TSA).

More than 1,300 young people were asked how they had coped with life after a stroke. Eighty three per cent said they were not given adequate support or information, 70 per cent had problems getting appropriate services and 75 per cent found day care was not tailored to their needs. The report calls for more appropriate day care facilities and support services.

For Voice for Stroke, free, TSA, tel: 071-490 5089.

Software helps students

A computer software package that will help disabled people to enter higher education was launched last month.

Southampton University's Department of Social Work studies was awarded £49,000 from the European Social Fund to develop a system that allows people to find out how well each university is equipped to cater for disabled students.

The software will be made available to sixth forms, libraries and disability advice groups.

Advisory panel set up

An advisory panel has been set up to look at ways of increasing the number of disabled people employed in the Civil Service.

The Advisory Panel on Equal Opportunities will advise the head of the Home Civil Service on "steps to improve the representation in senior positions of people of ethnic minority origin and people with disabilities". It will meet regularly and make recommendations.

New care standards

The first minimum standards of care for epilepsy services have been developed by The Epilepsy Task Force (ETF), a campaign group that aims to improve epilepsy care.

The guidelines say that people referred to hospitals with possible epilepsy must be seen within a month.

Free, ETF, 3 Olaf Street, London W11 4BE.

Corrections

From DN's September issue: Greater Manchester Passenger Transport Association is using 1,400,000 not £140,000 to make buses more accessible.

From DN's October issue: The orange badge scheme and the breakdown services are open to disabled passengers as well as drivers. The orange badge scheme allows you to park free-of-charge for up to three hours and not two hours on double-yellow lines.

Scott fails to get elected

Nicholas Scott, who was sacked as Minister for Disabled People in July, failed to become a vice-president of the Disabled Drivers' Association (DDA) in October.

Eight other candidates, including the ex-Minister for Disabled People Alf Morris, Baroness Masham, Sir John Hannam and former motor racing champion Jackie Stewart, were elected instead. Denny Denley was re-elected chairperson.

A DDA spokesperson said: "The election was quite close but Nicholas Scott could not muster enough votes to win."

"I think the part that Mr Scott played in killing off the Civil Rights (Disabled Persons') Bill helped to wreck his chances."

MP calls for Spain probe

A group of disabled holiday-makers who were left stranded in Majorca have called for a Government inquiry into why they were refused permission to fly home.

Local Labour MP George Stevenson is backing the group and demanding a full investigation. The seven passengers, from Stoke on Trent, were left stranded after a Spanish pilot said safety rules limited the number of disabled people on his plane (*DN* October).



Elsie Day, at 108 Shropshire's oldest lady, receives a carnation from Harold Drayford during the Elderflower Festival for elderly people last month. Thousands of residents joined forces with nursing home charity Coventry Church Housing Association Extra Care to make the weekend of events at Coombe Abbey Park Country Fair truly special.

Warning on measles drive

Thousands of children could be at risk from the Government's vaccination campaign against measles.

The warning comes from the campaign group Action for ME and Chronic Fatigue. It says that school-age children who have Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) or Post-Viral Fatigue Syndrome (PVFS) should not be vaccinated under the Government programme.

Children, it argues, can suffer severe relapses after any immunisation.

Dr Anne Macintyre, scientific adviser to the group, said: "People of any age, but particularly young people who have

had ME or PVFS, may be made much worse or have a severe relapse if they have an immunisation of any kind."

Operation Safeguard, designed to target seven million children for vaccination, was launched last month, (*DN* September) by Health Secretary Virginia Bottomley.

The Government's advice is that any immunisation should be postponed if a child is "feeling unwell".

This, according to Jane Colby of the group, does not stress the dangers enough: "It can take a child a year to get back from any relapse."

Brian Ashworth of the

Orchard ME group in Bilston, West Midlands, urged the Government to send every GP in the country a leaflet warning them not to vaccinate children with these conditions.

He estimated there are 24,000 children in the UK who have either ME or PVFS.

However, the Government's chief medical officer Dr Kenneth Calman defended the programme, stressing the need for children to be boosted. Measles, he said, "can cause blindness, deafness, brain damage and can even be fatal. It is important all children aged from 5 to 16 have their protection boosted."

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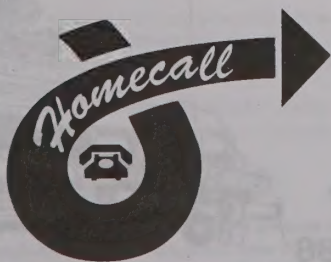
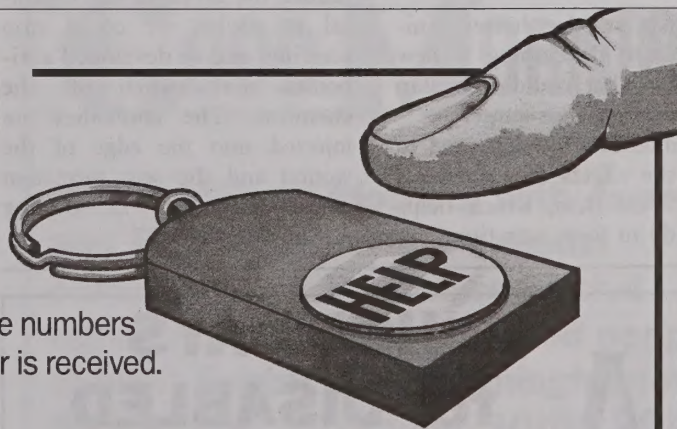
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The man with the metal heart

A retired lorry driver has become the first person in the world to be given a permanent "artificial heart".

Arthur Cornhill, from Charteris, Cambridgeshire, had the £40,000 metal pump implanted into his abdomen by a team of 11 surgeons at Papworth Hospital, Cambridge, in September.

The device, known as a Left Ventricular Assist Device (LVAD), is attached to the heart and takes most of the strain for the left ventricle of the heart, which pumps blood round the body. It is designed by Baxter Healthcare and powered by two nickel cadmium batteries in a belt around the waist.

Before going to sleep, he plugs himself into a monitor, which charges the pack and ensures he does not die in a power cut.

The hospital is planning a pilot study to assess the clinical effectiveness of LVAD. The device will be used on eight patients. Four will be given the implants, the others their usual medication. Their progress will be monitored and compared over the next two years.

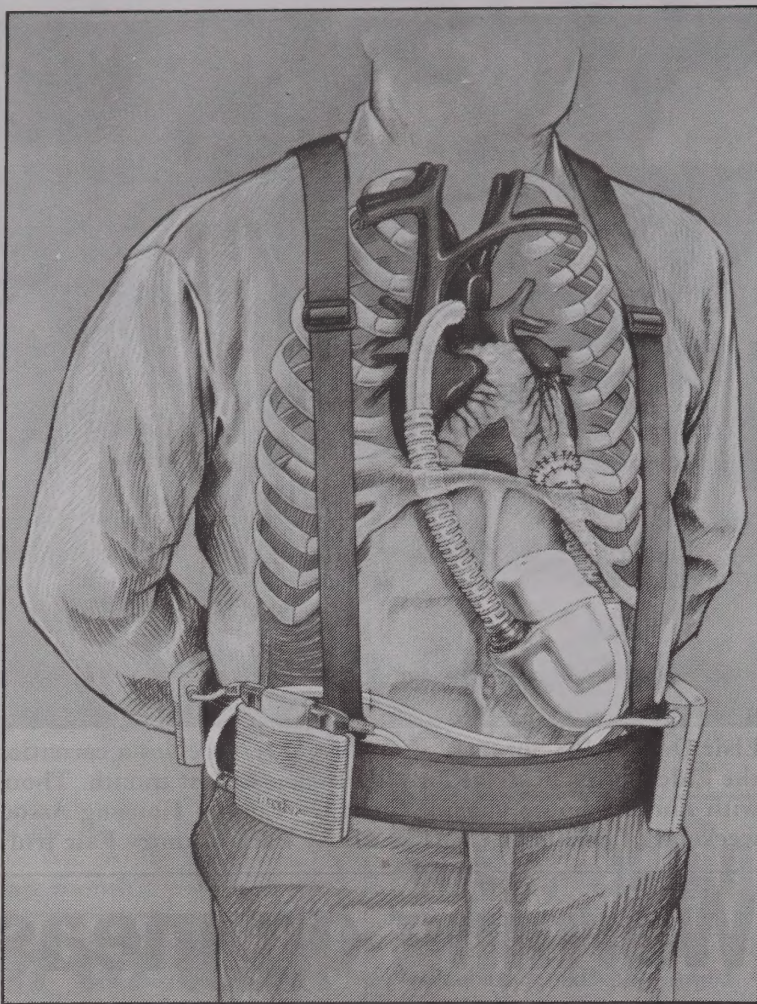
Doctors hope to discharge Mr Cornhill within weeks. His wife, Evelyn, said: "Arthur has been so ill. We feel fortunate he was allowed to have this chance."

Patients have been fitted with pumps in the past, but they only served as a temporary measure while doctors searched for a suitable donor heart.

Helping to heal scars

Biologists at Manchester University are developing a new treatment that could stop skin from scarring after surgery.

Antibodies are being used to block the effects of a chemical called TGF Beta, which helps the body to form scar tissue.



Metal hearted: the battery-powered metal pump is implanted in the abdomen and connected to the heart. PAPWORTH HOSPITAL

Tests on animals have shown that the treatment can completely prevent scarring. Trials on humans are expected soon.

The team, led by Professor Mark Ferguson, traced the chemical after noticing how well a foetus healed after surgery. There was none of the scarring or inflammation found in adults.

"We wondered what made foetuses so different and started looking at the differences between adult and foetus wounds," said Professor Ferguson. "It took five years for us to find TGF Beta, which adults have in abundance, but was absent in foetuses."

"We realised that if we could reduce the levels of the chemical in adults, we could stop scarring, and so developed antibodies that switch off the chemical. The antibodies are injected into the edge of the wound and the scar formation stops. The rate of healing remains unaffected."

Safer test on the way

Scientists are about to carry out clinical trials of a revolutionary technique that could screen all foetuses for Down's syndrome without any risk to mother or baby.

The new technique, which filters out and analyses foetal cells that circulate in a mother's

bloodstream, has been developed by a team of American scientists at the Boston biotechnology firm, Integrated Genetics (IG). Foetal cells are separated from the mother's cells by an artificial protein engineered in the laboratory. Doctors then split the cells open and examine the DNA.

Dr Bill Braun of IG expects trials to start next year. He said: "The new test is safer than current testing methods because there is no invasion of the womb and no risk of miscarriage."

A Down's Syndrome Association spokesperson said: "Doctors are placing too much emphasis on screening. Mothers should not have an abortion just because their baby has Down's Syndrome."

Transplants improved

New bone marrow transplant techniques have improved the treatment of children with leukemia.

Specialists at the Bristol Hospital for Sick Children have reduced the risk of rejection by giving patients an intensive course of chemotherapy and removing the T-cells from the donor bone marrow.

The T-cells have been targeted because by activating the body's immune system, they can cause the body to reject a bone marrow.

The advance means that children no longer need to be given bone marrow taken from a close relative. A study of 100

children at the hospital has shown that those with mismatched transplants do as well as patients with bone marrow taken from close relatives.

Dr Jackie Cornish, the hospital's transplant co-ordinator said: "The advance means there will be a large increase in the pool of potential donors and a sharp reduction in waiting time for transplants."

Breath test for asthma

Children in a borough with one of the highest asthma rates in the country are to take part in a pioneering test to monitor levels of air pollution.

More than 100 pupils from three primary schools in Tower Hamlets, east London, will blow into monitors each morning and evening.

Some will wear badges which detect the levels of chemicals in the atmosphere which can cause respiratory conditions.

The samples will be analysed each day for levels of pollution in Guy's Hospital and King's College Hospital, London. Children will keep a diary of when they cough or wheeze to see if there is any correlation with air pollution levels.

The move is supported by the local council, the district health authority and the South East Institute of Public Health who are concerned about rising levels of asthma in the area. Asthma admissions at the local hospital, the Royal London, are 80 per cent above the national average.

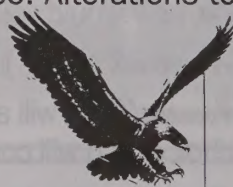
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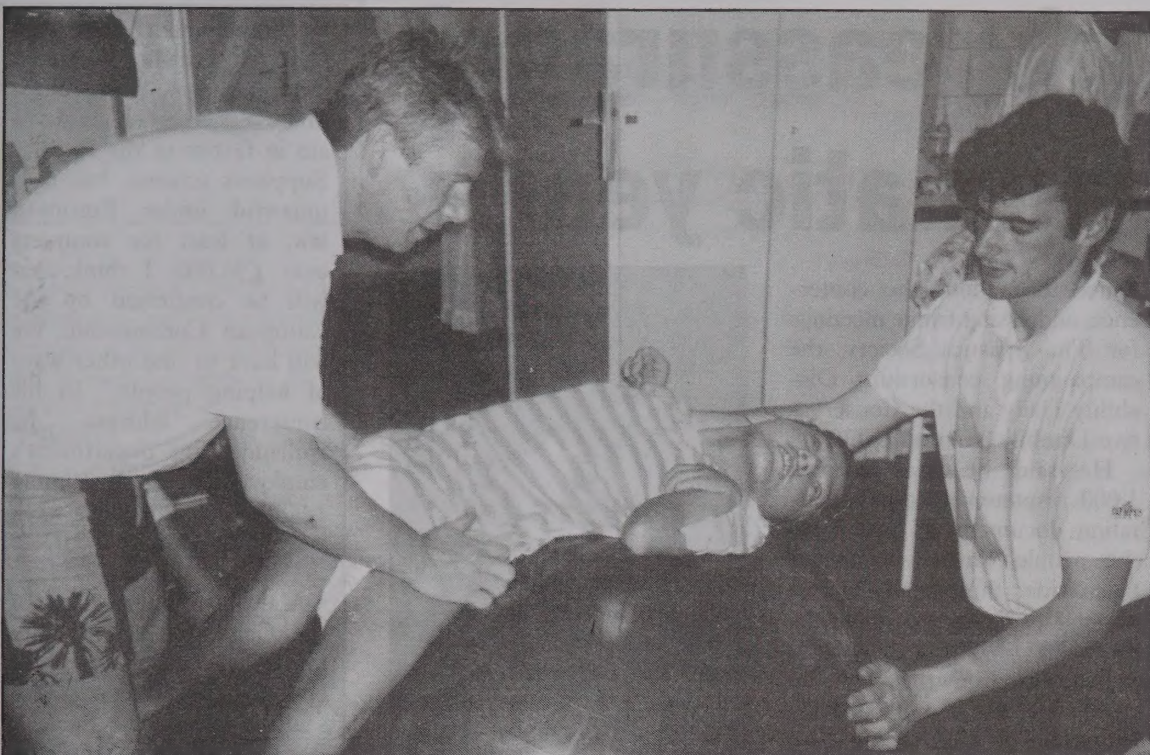
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Helping hand: A new charity has been set up to help disabled children in the Slovak Republic. Superintendent physiotherapist Alistair Murdoch (*left*) and medical student Steven Anderson launched the Children of Slovakia Happiness Appeal to help children at the Rohov Institute near Bratislava. "A lot needs to be changed at the Institute because it is about 30 years behind us," said Mr Murdoch. "We will be taking special equipment and passing on ideas and advice." COSHA, Gogarburn Hospital, Glasgow Road, Edinburgh EH12 9BJ.

Danes plan new centre

A unique centre to research and develop equipment for disabled people is planned to open in Denmark next year.

Funded by the Danish government to the tune of £1.5 million in the first year, it will be linked to the existing Danish Centre for Technical Aids for Rehabilitation and Education, a training, testing and information exchange organisation funded by local authorities.

The aim of the new centre, according to Bendt Apollo Rasmussen, chair of the Danish Rehabilitation Group, is to improve existing products, and involve users, carers, occupational therapists, manufacturers and local authorities in translating good ideas into good equipment. It should also create jobs.

John Moller, president of the the Danish Council of Organisations of Disabled People, welcomes the plan. "Our collaboration with the manufacturing industry has been limited," he said. "For instance, we would like to have technical aids that are more pleasing to the eye."

Hong Kong to pass law

The Hong Kong government has announced that it will introduce comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation next year.

Disabled people will be able to complain to an Equal Opportunities Commission if they believe they have been discriminated against.

The proposed legislation will cover discrimination in work, recreation, education, housing and access to buildings.

European White Paper

The European Commission (EC) has produced a White Paper on European Social Policy which recognises disability as a civil rights issue.

It says the EC will:

- Ensure disabled people are taken into account in relevant legislation, programmes and initiatives
- Recognise the need for "equal opportunities for all" and the obstacles which prevent disabled people from achieving full economic and social integration
- Act to provide a guarantee for all people against the fear of discrimination

• Prepare a code of good practice for its own personnel practices and builds "the fundamental right to equal opportunities into EC policies"

- Examine how EC action can help to improve access to transport and public buildings.
- Consider introducing a specific reference to combating discrimination on the grounds of race, religion, age and disability.

A Disabled Persons' International spokesperson said: "The Paper does not go far enough. Serious consideration should be given to introducing EC anti-discrimination legislation."

Learning lessons from America

Disability campaigner Marca Bristo was in London in September to talk about the lessons Britain can learn from the USA.

Mrs Bristo, from Chicago, is the first disabled person to chair the National Council on Disability (NCD), a federal agency that advises the President on public policy about disability.

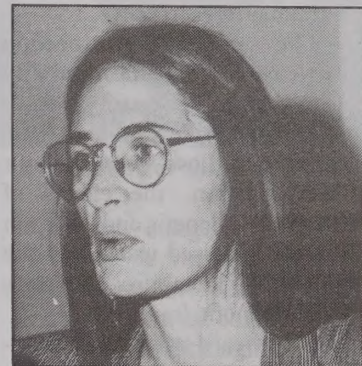
A 1980s civil rights campaigner, she thinks British people must get angrier about discrimination. She told a conference run by the Policy Studies Institute: "If you just argue with ministers about statistics and fine detail you will lose. Get as many people as involved as possible and show your anger."

"We asked disabled people to keep diaries and passed them on to Congress. We also found out which politicians were hiding a disability and brought them out of the closet. Many of them joined us."

Meeting Minister for Disabled People William Hague, Mrs Bristo was "fascinated by his excuses" for not introducing legislation. "He claimed Britain was not a rights-based society, but that's rubbish. You have laws for

women and ethnic minorities, so why not disabled people?"

As NCD chairperson, she will be monitoring the implementation of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). "Getting ADA was the easy part. Implementing it will be much harder. We have not got the message out



Marca Bristo: "show anger"

to enough people. Last year only 40 per cent of disabled people had heard of ADA.

"The Attorney General has now launched a big publicity campaign, but it should have been done earlier. ADA has made a big difference to a lot of people's lives, but there is still a lot of work to be done."

Clinton Health bill fails

President Clinton has failed to get his healthcare reforms.

If enacted, the Health Bill would have given health insurance coverage to all Americans.

President Clinton said the Bill had been killed off by

Republican delaying tactics.

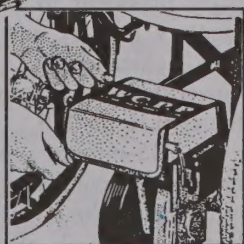
Democratic leader George Mitchell said: "It is clear that the reforms cannot be enacted this year. While most Americans believe we need reform, most Republicans don't."

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GOOD MORNING

BBC1's "Good Morning with Anne and Nick" is hosting a national conference on the future of civil rights legislation for disabled people at BBC Pebble Mill, Birmingham on Wednesday, November 30th 1994 from 9.30am to 4.30pm.

A limited number of general audience tickets are available. If you would like to join in the debate please contact

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Nic Paton and Tim Russell report from the party conferences

Tories seek reassurance after a traumatic year

Conservative delegates left Bournemouth last month in distinctly higher spirits than when they arrived. During the week, though, there was a bunker mentality about the proceedings – as delegates found themselves confined to the conference hall during a Criminal Justice Bill demonstration, and the rank and file sought reassurance and consolidation from their leaders after a traumatic year.

The sense of introspection carried over into the disability agenda. Social Security Secretary Peter Lilley offered little comfort to those worried about discrimination, the effects of Incapacity Benefit and VAT on fuel. He focused instead on the growth of Motability and ways to cut benefit fraud.

A new card would link benefit claimants to a post office computer network, he announced. But would this



simply become an identity card for benefit claimants, introduced by the back door, delegates wanted to know.

Consultation response

William Hague, Minister for Disabled People, refused to be drawn on how the cards would work. He told *DN*: "We haven't worked out the detail of this. It is some way from implementation. It is intended that it will be something that people will find easier to use."

Mr Hague was much in evi-

dence throughout the conference, addressing fringe meetings for The Spastics Society, the campaigning consortium Disability Daily and the Conservative Disability Group (CDG).

He said he had received 1,000 responses to the consultation document. "I owe it to the people who've responded to consider these carefully and not start jumping to announcements."

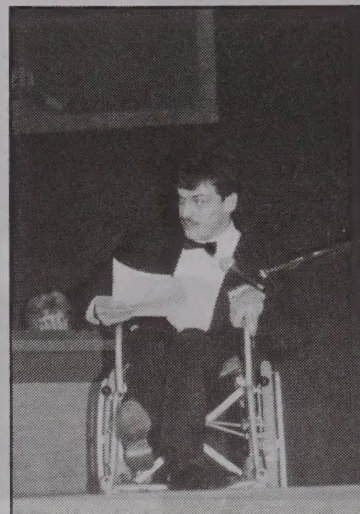
Just back from the USA, he ruled out any American-style legislation on civil rights: "We mustn't think there is necessarily a paradise being created over there which needs to be replicated in every respect somewhere else."

He was strongly attacked by Stratford-upon-Avon MP Alan Howarth. The Government's figure for civil rights legislation was a "huge overstatement", he argued. Many Conservative MPs had been "very sad" when the bill fell.

Mr Howarth said he would be putting himself forward for a private member's bill in December, but he believed the consultation process had created its own momentum.

"As the Government reflects on this consultation and listens to the arguments, they will themselves come to the view that a piecemeal approach will not work."

On the other hand, Robert Halfon, a disabled delegate from Exeter, urged the Gov-



Peter Smith on the podium – but he had to be lifted on

ernment to consult organisations such as the Confederation of British Industry and the Institute of Directors rather than impose legislation.

"What we need is a climate of persuasion. We need to change attitudes. You're not going to change attitudes by rules and regulations."

No wheelchair access

Disabled delegates were pleased that the conference had raised their profile. During the social security debate, wheelchair user Peter Smith, of the Rugby branch of the CDG, received a standing ovation for his speech defending the Disability Living Allowance.

But Mr Smith had to be bodily lifted on to the podium, as there was no access.

• Employment Secretary Michael Portillo defended scrapping the Priority Suppliers Scheme. He said: "I am in favour of the Priority Suppliers scheme, but it is unlawful under European law, at least for contracts over £96,000. I think that will be confirmed by the European Commission. We will have to find other ways of helping people." In his conference address, he applauded his department's employment record, claiming 1,000 disabled people a week were found employment.

• Malcolm Dunlop, chair of the Conservative Disability Group, vociferously attacked civil rights campaigners. He said: "I would not give a Beta Plus to the person who drew up the Berry bill. And then you have people like Victoria Scott saying if you are not with us, you are against us. It is not that we want discrimination. We do not. But you have to set down the nuts and bolts first. You have to build on solid foundations."

To the embarrassment of both party chairman Jeremy Hanley and William Hague, for the first time in six years there was also no simultaneous sign translation for deaf delegates.

The British Deaf Association accused Shirley Stotter, director of conference organiser CCO Conferences, of being unwilling to pay the £2,000 fee until a deal was too late.

Phyllis Knowles, a deaf delegate from Harrow, said: "I was shocked. I have complained to my MP and many other MPs."



Demonstrators in Bournemouth protest against VAT on fuel

NIC PATON

Lib Dem rebels steal show

Perhaps it was the sea air, or the autumn sunshine, but the Liberal Democrats in Brighton were in decidedly rebellious mood against their leadership – voting for the legalisation of cannabis, a minimum wage policy, and nearly abolishing the monarchy.

As a result, disability issues went largely untouched in the formal debates. There was no mention of disabled workers in the employment debate, special needs in the education debate, or disabled people during the health debate.

One of the few moments was a passing reference in Charles Kennedy's farewell speech as party president to the "parliamentary trickery and procedural chicanery" in the Government's scuppering of the civil rights bill.

A 15-minute emergency motion did condemn the Government on the civil rights bill. But as this took place at 9am on the final day, after a hard night's revelling, the audience was sparse. Privately, the attitude among delegates was

"What is the point in debating something we all agree on?"

The fringe meetings were a different matter. There were debates organised by the Alzheimer's Disease Society, Age Concern, The Spastics Society, the Terrence Higgins Trust, and a packed house to



hear views from the Liberal Democrat Disability Group.

New Social Security and Disability Spokesperson Liz Lynne said what was needed was comprehensive legislation, not quibbling over costs.

"What price human rights for disabled people? Democracy costs a lot of money, but we don't decide to get rid of democracy."

"We should be pilloried for the way we treat disabled people in this country. A piecemeal

approach is not the way forward."

Sally Greengross, of Age Concern, called for a "dignity paper" to push for improved pension rights for elderly people. Archy Kirkwood, new community care spokesperson, predicted a large section of the Queen's Speech would be devoted to pensions.

Tough talk on asthma

Asthma was one issue high on the agenda, led by environment spokesman Matthew Taylor, who had asthma as a child. He called for a national network of cycle lanes, an air monitoring network, more catalytic converters on cars, and an energy conservation programme. There were also calls for a national audit of pollution.

Facilities at the Brighton Centre were generally praised. Throughout the conference there was simultaneous sign translation from the podium for deaf delegates. The BBC also made tapes of speeches available.

Debbie Baird, a delegate from Watford, who is blind,

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CAREHOUSE



Labour promise rights

izenship would be presenting a document on anti-discrimination legislation at next year's conference.

Rights Now spokesperson Victoria Scott said she wel-



Appeal: Sally O'Connor



Rousing: Anne Begg

The idea was backed by Roger Berry, Kingswood MP and author of the Civil Rights (Disabled Persons) Bill. He told a fringe meeting organised by the British Council of Organisations of Disabled People that: "The forum would enable the party to listen carefully to what disabled people are saying and allow them to gain access to the party leadership."

Ian Malcolm, from the Derbyshire Coalition of Disabled People, agreed. He said: "The Tories and Liberal Democrats have disability groups, why shouldn't Labour?"

Back at the conference hall, Donald Dewar, Shadow Secretary of State for Social Security, attacked the Government's new incapacity benefit which he said "confuses physical capacity with the ability to hold down a job". He claimed it would add 190,000 people to the dole queue and "bring hardship to many disabled people".

Gordon Brown promised to end means-testing for pensioners and scrap the VAT rise to 17.5 per cent on domestic fuel.

Delegates approved a resolution, moved by the National League of the Blind and Disabled, that the next Labour government would place a statutory duty on training and enterprise councils and their Scottish equivalent, local enterprise companies, to provide special facilities for training disabled people.

Employment Secretary Michael Portillo came under fire for blocking the Priority



Remploy workers demonstrate at the Winter Gardens

TIM RUSSELL

Suppliers' Scheme, under which firms employing disabled people were given priority in bids for Government contracts.

Remploy attack

An emergency resolution, which accused him of "using disabled people's rights to economic independence as a means of fuelling his Euro-phobia hostility", was approved. The news cheered Remploy workers, who collected signatures for a petition attacking Portillo's decision to end the scheme.

Gwynfa Moore, a disabled delegate from Clywd, Wales, speaking in the health debate, condemned rising prescription charges. Wheelchair user Sally O'Connor, from Ealing, west London, appealed for accessible public transport. She said: "It would make a big difference to disabled people like myself who do not have a car."

Labour leader Tony Blair

impressed delegates with his vision of "a thriving community, secure in social justice", but was criticised for failing to mention disability rights.

Peter Ray of The Spastics Society northern regional office said: "I think Tony spoilt a great speech. He seemed to condemn discrimination against everyone but disabled people."

"I had a word with him afterwards and he said the omission was an oversight. Perhaps he needs a better scriptwriter. It was a great opportunity missed."

Access to the conference was patchy. There was sign language interpretation for hearing impaired delegates but some wheelchair users had problems. Margaret Joyce, a wheelchair user from Powys, Wales, said: "I had trouble getting in. The steward did not know what to do and had to be told there was a lift."

comed the party's commitment to civil rights but wanted an assurance that legislation would be introduced within a year of Labour taking power.

Labour's Disabled People's Rights' Spokesperson Barry Sheerman was pressed to create a forum which could give disabled people a stronger voice in the party. It would have access to shadow ministers, promote issues such as civil rights and give advice to the Labour leadership.

Labour pledged "full and comprehensive" anti-discrimination legislation at its conference at the Winter Gardens in Blackpool in October.

Shadow Chancellor Gordon Brown promised: "We'll not lie to the disabled or cheat the blind. We'll introduce a new disabled rights bill to help six million people."

Delegates approved a resolution calling on the next Labour government to pass the legislation "as an urgent priority" and to set up a disability rights commission that would ensure mechanisms were put in place to implement the law.

The resolution was introduced by Roger Robinson, a disabled delegate from Hampstead, who said: "Disabled people want nothing less than civil rights. We do not want preferential treatment, just equity and parity."

Anne Begg, a wheelchair user from Angus, Scotland, got a rousing reception when she told the conference: "It makes economic sense to give people like me civil rights. This seems self-evident to me, but there are people who see my wheelchair and believe I cannot be an asset to their company. We need legislation to protect us from these prejudiced people because they are paralysed from the neck up."

Joan Lester, Shadow Minister for Children and the Family, revealed that a policy group working on democracy and cit-



East Sussex environmentalists lobbied MP Matthew Taylor (right) as he highlighted poor air

NIC PATON



said there were too many stairs. "But I have been to much worse," she added.

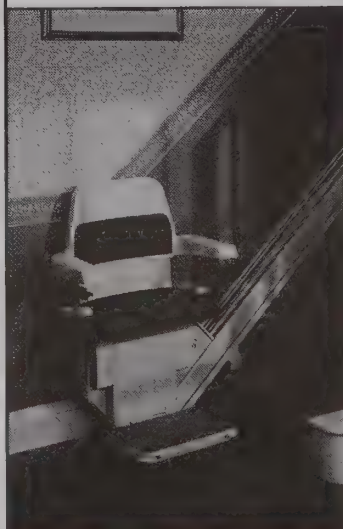
Geoffrey Whitaker, a delegate from York, who has dystonia, said: "Generally very good, but not enough toilets or lifts, and too few places outside the auditorium to sit down."

Paula Smith, a wheelchair user and Rochford delegate, said: "The problem was when you got outside the auditorium. You had to be a wheelchair basketball player to get up the ramp to the Grand Hotel."

- Bernard Donoghue, joint chair of the Liberal Democrats' policy group on disability, predicted the Government would not introduce disability legislation this autumn. He told *DN* this was because "they've rushed the consultation document and they haven't thought through all the implications of preparing a piece of legislation". The Lib Dems would be drawing up a disability policy for their spring conference in Scarborough that would be a "public declaration of the kind of legislation we want to see".

- Brighton saw the first debate on voluntary euthanasia at a party conference. Ludovic Kennedy, vice-president of the Voluntary Euthanasia Society, said: "In 35 years from now, half the population of Europe will be over 60, so the demand for help in dying can only increase, year by year." He would be persuading his constituency party to adopt a motion for the 1995 conference.

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Footsie about and feel the difference

(4) Nic Paton checks the claims of reflexology

When Suzanne Adamson talks about reflexology, my toes start to tingle and curl in a "that sounds nice, why can't we try it" sort of a way.

Unfortunately, I'm not the one being "reflexed", but two-year-old Shane Murray, who is clearly enjoying the experience, gurgling and smiling for the camera.

Shane has cerebral palsy and has been having reflexology for nine months, with quite marked effects, according to his mother, Debbie.

"My husband and I were very frightened at first when we realised what Shane had. It was as if we'd never held a child or anything.

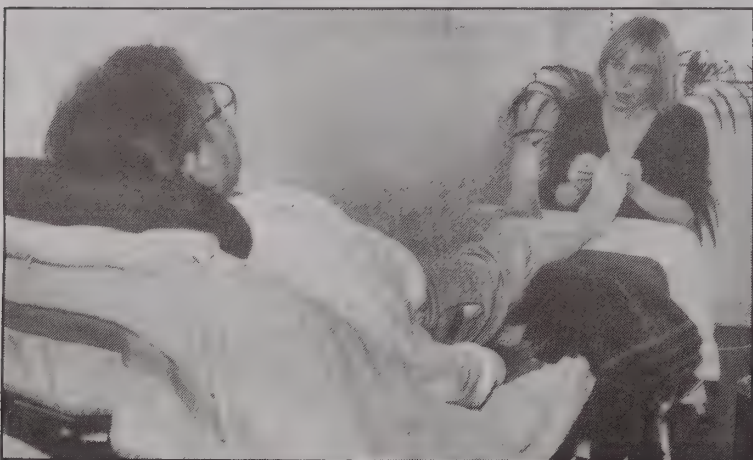
"We didn't know how to pick him up and everyone was frightened to do anything with him," she says.

"The reflexology helped us to come to terms with Shane's disability. It gave me a lot of time just to sit there with him, very calmly. And it helped Shane. He used to be miserable a lot at the beginning, very cranky.

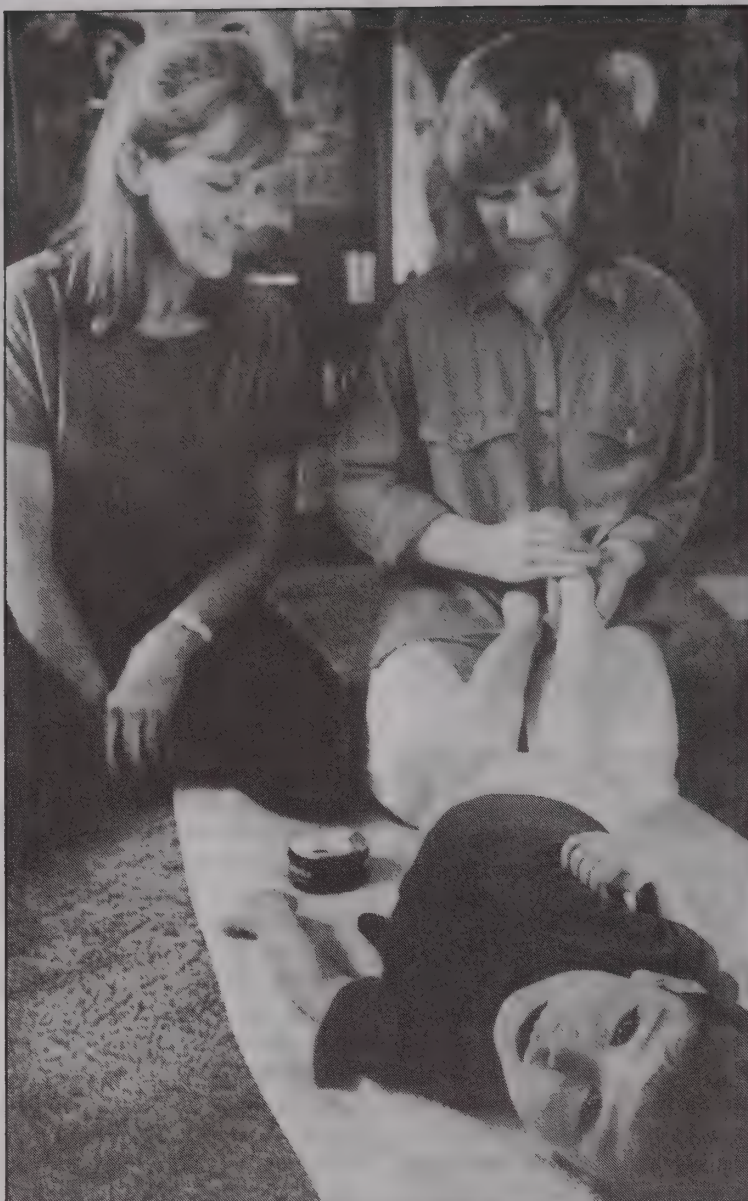
"Now he's very placid and has less spasm, not nearly as stiff or tight. He just lies there and is quite relaxed about everything."

Lets you take over

Reflexology allows a parent, carer or friend to take over the "treatment" after a short time. It is, says Ms Adamson, who is a health visitor for Camden and Islington NHS Trust and a reflexologist, an ancient therapy, which originated in China. The earliest record is in Egypt, on pyramid walls.



Chris Murphy and Bernadette Baldwin: "I can walk again"



Suzanne Adamson (left) with Debbie Murray and Shane Murray

Doctors in Britain first became interested in reflexology at the turn of the century, and more so in the 1920s as they became aware of how nerve reflexes worked.

Debbie Murray uses her fingers in a gentle, circular motion to massage every part of Shane's feet and ankles. She also massages his palms and fingers, opening up the fists to relax the hands and arms.

"Blockages occur in the body for all sorts of reasons. You can feel them in the feet, whether it's from an injury or on a mental and emotional level. People tense up, you can feel their feet curl up," says Suzanne Adamson.

"If you are massaging around the big toe for instance, it is actually releasing congested areas all the way up through the body, through the reproductive organs and the intestines. Reflexology is even

said to boost the immune system."

Though it is becoming better known, you may still find it hard to be treated on the National Health Service. Westminster City Council offers sessions from one of its resource centres in Victoria, central London.

Reflexologist Bernadette Baldwin joined the centre through the charity Scope for Complementary Therapies. She compares the central nervous system to an electric circuit.

Walking again

She uses long, slow motions with her fingers and palms on the toes, feet and ankles of 61-year-old Chris Murphy.

He is a regular visitor, who has had painful rheumatoid arthritis in every joint for 23 years. The action helps to break up fluid in the ankles



"Reflexology helped us to come to terms with Shane's disability"

and to ease pain.

"It's made a marvellous improvement in me. I have cut the number of tablets I need to take, and it has helped my bowels become more regular," he says.

"I didn't believe it at first. But before I had reflexology I couldn't walk at all, and now I am able to move about on crutches. It has made my legs stronger and more supple.

State of independence

"The best thing is giving me back my independence. I can enjoy myself much more. I even feel safe to go on holiday.

George Coombes is another regular at the centre. He finds reflexology relieves the mental stress of his blindness and helps him relax.

It also helps him sleep, reduces his headaches and eases tension in his neck, which used to give him trouble swallowing.

Reflexology is coming more into the mainstream. The Institute of Complementary Medicine will be holding a conference in London on 12 November to discuss ways of expanding awareness of reflexology and other complementary therapies.

The institute keeps a register of practitioners and can provide a list for your area. Apply in writing, including a stamped addressed envelope. You can also write to the Association of Reflexologists, which also keeps a register. If you are a parent, ask about reflexology at your local baby clinic.

Sessions can vary from once a week to once every three weeks, depending on the age of the disabled person.

Babies will perhaps need a five to ten-minute session, costing about £5 or £10 a time. For adults, a normal session is about an hour, at £20-25. However, most therapists work on a sliding scale.

Association of Reflexologists, 27 Old Gloucester Road, London WC1X 3XX.

Institute of Complementary Medicine, PO Box 194, London SE16 1QZ.

Scope for Complementary Therapies, tel: 081-969 5625.

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Carmel Kinnear talks to Alison Rowat

She beats the musketeers

When Roy Kinnear died suddenly six years ago, showbusiness lost one of its most popular comedians, star of *That Was The Week That Was*, and *A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum*. Carmel Kinnear lost the love of her life and the man who had helped her look after their severely disabled daughter Karina, now 23.

Last month, Mrs Kinnear relived the nightmare in the High Court. Roy died in Spain, aged 54, after falling from a horse while filming *The Return of the Musketeers*. After just one day of evidence, the film company agreed to pay £650,000 compensation.

Sitting in her large, comfortable house a week later, Carmel Kinnear is certain why she went through the legal battles: "Justice. You cannot allow someone who was well one day, a wonderful actor, a fantastic father and husband, to just be put into such danger and not be looked after."

The honeyed tones, well-coiffured hair and make-up (at 11am on a Saturday morning) mark out Carmel Kinnear as a trooper. She met Roy when they were both in *England Our England*. But their 18-year marriage wasn't to be like most of their showbusiness friends.

"Karina was five and a half months before we knew she was handicapped," says Carmel. "You have this perfectly lovely young person and then someone tells you that they are handicapped. But it's still the same person. It's still the person you were loving the day before. You can't change how you feel."

Baring our souls

"The day afterwards, the paediatrician asked if we'd speak to some people about what it was like to have a handicapped child. We went into this room filled with 25 medical students and had suddenly to bare our souls. In retrospect, it was an appalling thing to ask us to do. But because we were performers we went in there and did it."

The reality of caring took the place of role playing soon enough, even with a mother's help. "We were so tired, so incredibly tired, because Karina slept so badly," Carmel recalls. "But at the same time we were both working quite a lot. You felt that, however tragic it was, we were not going to let it ruin our lives, that we had a life as well."

Juggling these demands became harder when Kirsty, now 20, and Rory, 16, were

born. Karina was a day pupil at a special school until she was 11 and then went off to a boarding school.

"Roy and I felt such guilt," says Carmel. "We used to cry all the way home on the A3. I

centre, Karina spends her time at home. "The things that Karina and I do together you would do with a much younger child," says Carmel. "There's a lot of cuddling, and she likes going for a walk in Richmond

first time she will have moved independently – and a speech machine with four phrases.

Carmel and Roy often spoke of building the "ultimate" place for severely disabled young people like Karina, an ordinary house for five or six with maximum support on hand and a day centre nearby. The fundraising for Roy Kinnear House kicked off in June with a comedy show at the National Theatre which raised £35,000.

"You have to plan for the future," said Carmel. "I don't want Karina to be placed in a long stay hospital."

She is equally clear eyed about the pressures of coping alone with Karina: "It gets worse as life goes on. Karina has many more problems now than she did originally. Of course you wouldn't be without her because you love her as the person she is. But don't let's pretend that it wouldn't have been wonderful if nature had in some way changed things."

"There are lots of people 'up there' who don't particularly want to help you, but you have to try to speak up for yourself. Keep on badgering for better facilities. It's not easy. I suppose I'm quite good at badgering."

"A lot of the time, in the end, you have no say. But for heaven's sake, let's try, try, try."



Carmel and her family: (from left) Kirsty, Karina and Rory

PEOPLE IN PICTURES

didn't know at the time they had respite care in Queen Mary's hospital, Roehampton."

When Karina reached her twenties it became difficult to find a place for her. She came home two years ago after Wandsworth Health Authority agreed to fund a nursing service from 8.30am-7pm.

Apart from going to a day

Park. Rory plays the piano and the trumpet and she loves that. But it's the nursery rhymes and stories she enjoys most."

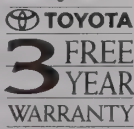
The compensation money will help pay for Karina's bedroom to be enlarged and a bathroom built on. She will soon have a device that enables her to move round an electronic track in her home – the



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Letters to the Editor



Disability Now, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

If the Paris Metro can do it, why can't we?

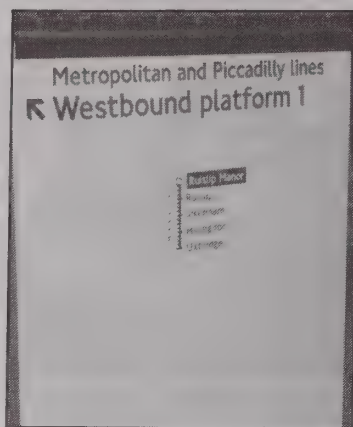
I am concerned that the writing on signs in public places, such as stations and hospitals, is being made ever smaller. This assumes everyone has perfect vision – which they do not.

I wrote to the Disabled Passenger Unit at London Transport giving them an example of a sign on my local Ruislip Manor station (see right) which measures over 5ft, but has writing on it which takes up just 7in.

They merely passed my comments on to the corporate identity manager, who wrote back with phrases such as a "synergy of signs". She was more concerned with image rather than signs being easy to read for elderly or visually impaired people.

I wrote back and said that

the Paris Metro has very large station name and exit signs and they don't have an image problem.



Anyone who is concerned should write to the places in question and press for larger signs where practical.
A Wells
Ruislip, Middx

Teaching a child to walk won't work

This article (DN, August) has reminded us after all this time that it has not been accepted there are alternative ways of looking at human development.

There is a big difference between maturation as described in Dr Bax's article, and skill acquisition as used in

conductive education. Maturation often fails children with cerebral palsy, leaving learning skills, upright posture, mobility and hand function as a possibility for development.
Lillemor Jernqvist
Director
The Scottish Centre for Children with Motor Impairments
1 Craighalbert Way
Cumbernauld G69 0LS

Naidex organisers say: 'We try very hard'

I would like to respond to the letter from Mrs P Elliot (DN, August) regarding the width of the aisles at Midlands Naidex.

As organisers of the Naidex series, we try very hard to make the show as comfortable as possible for all visitors. The aisles are, in fact, wider than those at any other exhibition at the NEC or Wembley, but in the case of Midlands Naidex visitor attendance exceeded all expectations, which did lead to

congestion in certain parts of the hall during the busy period.

As for the empty space behind the stands, unfortunately that was not ours to use. The NEC charges us for every square centimetre that we use, and to keep costs down for our exhibitors, we cannot use the whole hall. We do, however, provide a sizeable seating area where visitors can chat or relax.

We are always looking for ways to improve our exhibition

and to make it a pleasant experience for everyone. To this end, we are now holding talks with the NEC.

I do hope Mrs Elliot will continue to visit Naidex. I will pass a copy of this letter to the exhibition venues to add weight to our campaign for them to understand the special needs of the Naidex events.

Fiona Heakin
Exhibition director
Reed Exhibition Companies (UK)

Kew, we saw you – Keep Able too

I was sorry to hear how Beth Finch tried so hard to plan an outing and then had to give up after so many negative responses (DN, August).

On behalf of the Oxfordshire Red Cross, I took a group of people with varying disabilities to Keep Able and then on to Kew Gardens last April. If only I had known Beth and her partner wanted a trouble free day out, the Red Cross would have picked them up on our way.

I booked our day out with both Keep Able and Kew. When we arrived at Keep Able in our adapted coach, we were welcomed by staff. They showed us round, answered questions, handed out leaflets and made us most welcome. They laid on lunch and an occupational therapist answer questions.

At Kew, someone was waiting for us at the gate and issued our tickets, with excellent reductions for pushers. People in wheelchairs went in free. The gardens were beautiful and afterwards we had a welcome cup of tea in the pergola. The weather was perfect.

After a visit to the loos, which cope with wheelchairs, we set off on our journey home, everyone agreeing it had been a perfect day out.

This letter does not help Beth and her partner, but I wanted to put on record the kindness and courtesy shown to our party from Keep Able and Kew Gardens staff.

Patricia Holloway
Branch Community Services
Manager
British Red Cross, Oxfordshire

No dialogue with Lifestyle mag

I liked the article describing changes in Motability (DN, October). After a year with my Nissan Micra, I must endorse their choice of bulk buy; it certainly outshines the competition.

I am less impressed by the Lifestyle magazine. It was said by Motability director Simon Willis to be a way of providing a dialogue with customers. I thought so too. It seems the ideal forum for mobility customers to comment on the cars they run, and I wrote to say so.

Lifestyle didn't respond, which makes me wonder about possible different meanings for dialogue.

James Straughan
Hartlepool, Cleveland

Never too much

Leonard Kearey of Addlestone, Surrey couldn't buy something over the phone from John Lewis in High Wycombe, using his Bank of Scotland/The Spastics Society Master Card, so he used his Switch card instead.

Next day he got a phone call to say John Lewis had contacted the Bank of Scotland and he had been credited with £9.78, the amount his purchase would have benefited The Spastics Society. "Can't think of any other shop taking the trouble",

sic

he said. Nor can we. (NB: The Spastics Society becomes Scope on 3 November).

No sporting chance

Scottish Television's *Scotland Today* blotted its copybook covering the Commonwealth Games. After talking about a disabled swimmer, the interviewer said: "We will go now ... to sport proper." Sheila

Jamieson of DIAL East Kilbride leapt to the phone, as did lots of others. Result: red faces, profuse apologies.

Deadly fundraiser

The latest fun-fundraising wheeze at CMHERA's (The Community and Mental Health Educational and Research Association), is to ask you to say (for 50p) who's "Dead or Alive" out of 50 celebs, including Harold Wilson, Tony Hancock and Rudolph Nureyev. Relatives and friends may not be amused.



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Wheelchairs wait snowbound below, while their owners take to the ski lift

TOM CRAWLEY

There's something odd about seeing a dozen or more wheelchairs abandoned at the bottom of a ski lift. But that is exactly what I found at Winter Park, Colorado, when I went there to take part in the ski programme at the National Sports Centre for the Disabled (NSCD). Director Hal O'Leary says the centre can cater for severely disabled people and those who simply need adaptive equipment. "Regular ski instructors are unlikely to know how to work with people who have special needs, nor

about the adaptive equipment available." For those who can stand, equipment includes outriggers (crutches with short skis at the end), and chariots ("walkers" on skis). Skiing with two skis and outriggers is called "four-tracking" – often the answer for people with aneurism, cerebral palsy, spina bifida, muscular dystrophy or traumatic accident damage. "Three-tracking" uses a single ski with outriggers; this is generally for amputees or those with one much weaker leg. Other equipment includes

"slant boards" used under ski bindings (the part which fixes the boot to the ski) to correct a tendency to learn forward or backwards, and wedges to enable a skier to put the ski flat on the ground. When using two skis, the tops can be joined for those lacking lateral control. For people who can't stand there is also a range of equipment, from simple sit-ski sledges which will get you out on the slopes, but give you little control while you're there, to high-performance mono-skis and bi-skis (which consist of bucket seats about 45cm off the ground and skis underneath).

Ski further

Tom Crawley, disabled in a motorbike accident, e

Bi-skis with twin skis side-by-side are easier to ski in than mono-skis (with a single ski), because there are two ski edges to bite into the snow on turns – but they don't offer the fine control that mono-skis can give. Usually mono and bi-skis are used in conjunction with outriggers, but there are a range of fittings to enable those without the use of their arms to ski.

Loads of encouragement
I can walk (with a stick) and was fitted with fairly short skis (150cm), a lift in my right boot to compensate for my shorter leg, and a wedge under the binding for the twisted ankle. I also had outriggers and, initially, a metal "ski bra" to stop me crossing the tips of my skis.

Instructors are incredibly encouraging, and nobody makes you feel slow or in the way. The disability ski school is right in the heart of the Winter Park base area, sharing the ground floor of the main building with the ski shop. And the whole of Winter Park works with the NSCD, both on and off the snow – the lift attendants even smile as they have to slow or stop the chair-lifts for you to get on or off (which could come as a surprise to anyone who has ever skied in Europe), and there is great awareness of disabled people's needs in the close-by accommodation areas.

Intermediate slopes
My skiing started with straight runs to build confidence, and graduated to easy parallel turns, with the emphasis on



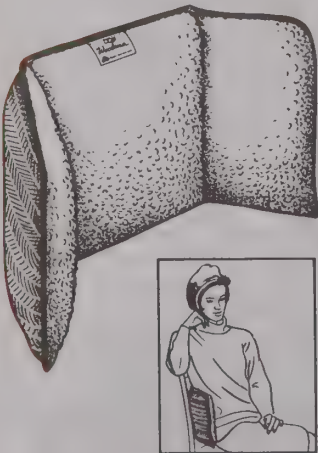
Crutches discarded, Tom's gea

hip rotation. Of course I fell, but most of the falls were quite gentle. I found the outriggers could take a lot of the stress off my knees. Although they should not be taking weight, just used for balance, they helped me stand up straight after a turn. Throughout the programme, I skied with a number of different instructors. A good feature of the lessons is that they aim to finish on a high note – even if it means finding some very easy skiing. By the end of my stay I was skiing without an

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How to get on those snowy slopes

Back-up, for people with spinal injuries, is running week-long skiing courses in Europe this winter. Equipment, instructors and able-bodied volunteers are available. Contact Back-up, The Business Village, Broomhill Road, London SW18 4JQ, tel: 081-871 5180.

The British Ski Club for the Disabled (BSCD) has volunteers on 23 dry slopes around Britain and an eight-week programme of holidays, mainly in Europe and the US. Contact BSCD, Springmount, Berwick St John, Shaftesbury, Dorset SP7 0HQ, tel: (0747) 828515.

The Uphill Ski Club runs courses on dry ski slopes around Britain and Europe, and has a permanent Ski School and Training Centre for disabled people in the Cairngorms. Contact the Uphill Ski Club, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ, tel: 071-636 1989.

The Good Skiing Guide 1995, from the Consumers' Association, has general information, but nothing specifically for disabled people. £14.99 from bookshops or the Consumers' Association, 2 Marylebone Road, London NW1 4DF, tel: 071-830 6000.

The Glencoe Ski Centre in Scotland has an accessible chairlift, ramps, easy parking and some toilets for people with disabilities. Details from Glencoe Ski Centre, The Ridges, Glencoe, Ballachulish PA39 4HT, tel: (08552) 303.

than you've ever walked

ed strength for style on the American ski slopes

instructor, and though I will never ski mogul fields, I was skiing good intermediate slopes with my wife. She said I was skiing better than before my accident, because where I could use strength in the past, I now had to have style!

Just one of 3,000

The NSCD is the biggest programme of its type, working with over 140 organisations around the world. Three thousand people attend each winter and receive more than 20,000 lessons in the process.

The centre can do so much because it has more than 1,000 trained volunteers helping to provide instruction. They teach skiing to adults and children with different physical, mental and sensory disabilities, enjoying the boast that anyone who can get to the office will get out on the slopes.

While I was there, I saw groups of visually impaired skiers, teenagers with learning

difficulties and paraplegics from Germany. A man with brain injury resulting from a motor accident, who arrived in an electric wheelchair, was later standing up in a walker on skis.

The volunteers mostly work with groups. Individuals will get their instruction from one of the 12 full-time volunteers.

As a volunteer remarked (himself a one-legged skier), an adverse effect of many disabilities is the amount of time spent indoors. Combine being outside with the confidence you get from actually skiing, and the centre can make a huge impact on people's lives – it certainly did on mine.

Cross-country too

While at Winter Park, I also visited the Snow Mountain Nordic Centre (010 1 303 887 2152 ext 4173) at the YMCA Snow Mountain Ranch for cross-country skiing. The "graceful" skating-type movements are "low impact", so put little strain on my knees.



BYRON HETZLER/WINTER PARK

Mono-ski maestro Matt Feeney runs the sit-ski programme

I skied about 6km of the total 100km of trails – not bad for someone who would have problems walking a tenth of the distance!

The Nordic Centre has experience with disabled skiers, including using special sit-skis, which have two skis set at the same distance apart

as the ski tracks. Sadly, they have no special equipment of their own, but given notice will try to borrow anything necessary.

At the YMCA there is also a well-equipped six-bed haemodialysis centre, set in amazing scenery. The view from the treatment room is both

panoramic and very restful. But treatments are \$200-\$250 each. Details from the Vacation Kidney Centre, tel: (010 1 303) 887 2152 ext 4118.

Tom Crawley went to Winter Park for Daily Mail Ski. His original article appeared in the September magazine.



n outriggers – "they helped me stand up straight after a turn"

FACTFILE

Park does not appear in the major companies' brochures, even though it has excellent skiing. Tel: (010 1 303) 726 5514. Independence holidays from £499-£779, per person. Tel: 071-713 1-557 8555. *Frontier Airlines* have direct flights, Gatwick to Denver, on Tuesdays. £79 for economy to £2,789 for BusinessFirst (reclining seats). *Frontier* flights (from around £300) can add hours to the 10-hour flight. Our minibus transfer from Denver to Winter Park costs \$30. *Home James*, tel: (010 1 303) 726 5060.



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18 BOOKS

The Benefits of Caring
by Philip Boyd
(*Inside Communications*, £7.50)

This well-researched reference book is packed with extremely useful and detailed information on welfare benefits. At first, as a carer, I did not find it easy reading. I felt it would be more useful in the hands of social workers and the like.

The book is broken down into three sections which deal with the different benefits available, how they are made

up, how they work, and whether they are means tested or not. There are also sections on different ways of assessing the same case study, which are quite enlightening.

The sections on subjects which are pertinent to me and my caring role opened my eyes, particularly the assessment system for a cared person having to move into a residential or nursing home. I did not realise the minefield that, without the right information, it could become.

I selected situations which might happen in my life. I found the book hard going but, given more time, it could be useful and helpful. Some situations which I had thought would be easy to deal with were so complex when I began to study them, I realised how much knowledge and understanding is necessary to negotiate terms with professional organisations.

The legal phraseology had obviously been put into clear language which would be more helpful to readers. And, for those who find letter writing to government bodies daunting, there is an excellent section of sample letters which will make the task much simpler.

It is a book which I would want on my shelves, or at least available locally.

Jean Bland

The Angel Within

A MOTHER'S INSPIRATIONAL ACCOUNT
OF RAISING A CHILD WITH DOWN'S SYNDROME
Foreword by The Lord Rix CBE DL



The Angel Within is a mother's account of raising a child with Down's Syndrome. £6.99, from The Publishing Corporation, 52-54 Hullbridge Road, Essex CM3 5NH, tel: (0245) 320462.

How Late It Was, How Late

by James Kelman
(*Secker & Warburg*, £14.99)

James Kelman's latest novel, winner of the 1994 Booker Prize, is set in the Glasgow underworld of drink, poverty, crime and prison — not so much *Waiting for Godot*, despite the echoes of Beckett, as *Waiting for Geros*.

There is little in the way of a story, just one long rant punctuated with undeleted expletives. Ex-con Sammy is one of life's victims, but he is also a stubborn and cursed survivor. He emerges from a massive binge only to tangle with a couple of off-duty cops, and wakes up in a cell unable to see. His blindness is not a metaphor, but another grim fact in his tenacious, if tawdry, existence.

Sammy's adjustment to his disability is sensitively handled, from his growing awareness of the sheer difficulties — whether it be in crossing a road or getting on a bus — to the sudden shock of realising that he

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Book news

The Permaculture Garden by Graham Bell will help you to transform the smallest back yard into a highly productive garden. £9.99, Thorsons, available from most bookshops. *How to Help With Hearing Loss* is a practical guide for carers. £12 (plus £1.50 p&p), from Hexagon Publishing, 36 Adams House, Dickerage Lane, New Malden, Surrey KT3 3SF, tel: 081-336 0220.

Tony Gould

World wide designs offer plenty of ideas

by Rob Jackson

Disabled friends and colleagues excused themselves from Wembley Naidex – “It’s just for the professionals now” ... “What can I afford?”

The parking choice was a £6 a day multi-storey or orange badge free parking some distance from the entrance. The lift to the bar and restaurant from the foyer was out of action, and breakfast – two sandwiches and a plastic beaker of coffee – cost £4.35.

Yet the Naidex gate was up 4,000 on last year, according to the organisers, with 11,000 visitors. So many people did go.

First impressions were the disappearance of old names into new trading groups and partnerships and the appearance of Transatlantic sports and leisure equipment.

Booker Prize for best exhibit in the mobility section has to go to Sunrise Medical for their wheelchair fashion show (see page 22), Kung fu and dancing, created by wheelchair users – every time the music started, visitors stopped and stared and circulation came to a standstill.

Super chairs

Apart from the caterpillar-driven, stair-climbing, electronic Explorer (see DN, November '93), there was a range of electric Chairman wheelchairs from Permobil. They are all based on a front wheel drive trailing a rear castor battery powered unit manufactured in Holland. Various seats with powered adjustments and other accessories offer good



Kay Strutt from Milton Keynes liked the “futuristic” Pegasus

naidex '94



The “can do” atmosphere of Naidex: Rosie Blake (left) modelling in the Sunrise Medical fashion show and Thomas Buckman, 3, from Gerrards Cross powering round in his Lox



customising potential. The base unit seems large, but is highly manoeuvrable and very stable. The standing seat for youngsters and adults is fully powered in “mini-vertical” and “vertical” models, all operated by the Permobil joy-stick control. From £12,000, although a new variant using a Penny and Giles controller will help reduce the price. Mobility Aids Centre, tel: (0733) 342242.

The Lox for children aged two to seven, is not new, but it is an incredible chair, imported by Rainbow Rehab for Mediswede. Around £13,000. Tel: (0202) 481818.

Powered chairs

Vessa’s old Vitesse III is still going strong, modernised and with many parts interchangeable with other models. The latest development is the Eadie XL, an indoor/outdoor

power chair aimed at NHS purchasers. Flexible and practical, it has a swing-away controller and shortened armrests which give close access to a desk or table. EadieCare, tel: (0307) 461551.

Newton’s Royale also has many options designed to clip on as modules. There is a wide range of controllers, seating and upholstery which should suit most users. The basic chair is very compact, comes to pieces easily in liftable units and packs away into a car boot. It will climb a 1:5 slope and carry a 16.5 stone passenger at 4mph for about 16 miles. And there’s a two year warranty. Price £2,499. Tel: 021-783 6081.

Rollerchair is fully customisable powered chair, new to the UK. RM Services of Gillingham, Kent, reckon that between Gillingham and Australia (where it originates) they can assemble a bespoke indoor/outdoor wheelchair within 28 days of an order being placed, for £3,000 to £5,000. Examples on show ranged from office chairs to building site chairs and the Yo-Yo for children aged one to seven. Tel: (0634) 578881.

The long distance G40 from Invacare has large wheels, front wheel drive and servo powered rear wheel steering. Devotees of MIRA will want to weigh this up. At £3,950, it has got to be excellent value.

Not quite a powered wheelchair, the Italian Jolly is an attendant-controlled powered stair climber that fixes to most manual chairs. Described as easily transportable in a car, you could take it on holiday. It does weigh over a hundredweight, but dismantles into two parts. Wheelchair Corporation, tel: 081-954 5848.

Continued on page 20

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Scooters and shop-about

Continued from page 19

New from Gerald Simonds is the Cat scooter, which has a unique one-hand control option – the “aviation tiller”. Light, flexible, and very manoeuvrable, capable of 4mph, it is worth serious consideration by anyone who finds conventional handlebar controls difficult. £1,575 (£1,495 without tiller). Tel: (0296) 436557.

The futuristic looking Pegasus with its high-gloss, fibre-glass body panels (including a “modesty” panel for women users), is a four-wheel buggy capable of speeds up to 4mph on pavements or 8mph on roads. It has a full lighting system and is reckoned to do up to 35 miles without a recharge. There are two lockable compartments for handbags, but not much storage for shopping. It has puncture proof pneumatic tyres. About £3,000 delivered. Aldersley Battery Chairs, tel: (0902) 887268.

Keep Able's four wheel Shop Rider now comes in three sizes. Joining the Enterprise and the De Luxe was the Scout, with more power and greater battery capacity and range. £2,995. Tel: 081-742 2006.

Manuals and sportives

A new high-tec manual from EadieCare will be available soon for the active wheelchair user. No news yet on prices for the Speedy but, with pressure injection mouldings, it should be possible to keep the weight below 25lb which will make it a serious competitor in the lower priced



Nelia Duncan from Braintree relaxes in the Chairman

GRAHAM BOOL PHOTOGRAPHY

active range. Ross & Bonyman, tel: (0307) 461551.

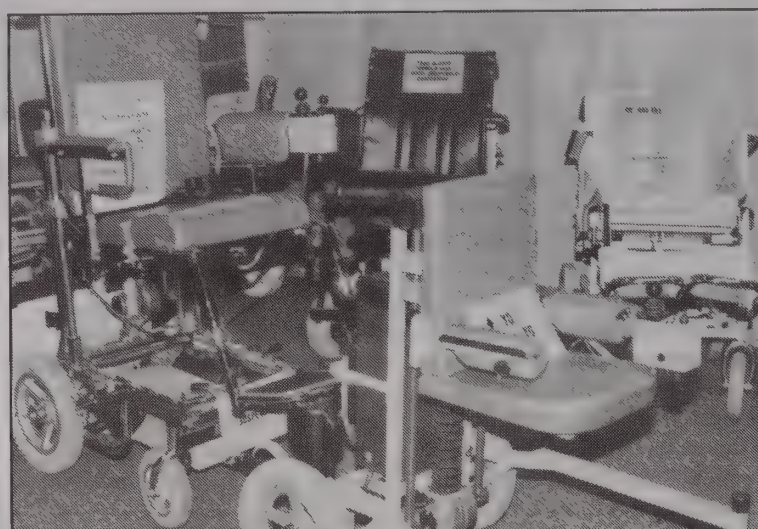
Newton has replaced the Lightweight and Ultra Lightweight with the Karma range. Weighing between 31lb and 37lb, they are not the lightest chairs on the market. Accessories include adjustable arm rests, unpuncturable tyres, and quick release wheels and stabilisers for the more active user. As standard, Karma has removable armrests, a folding drop-back and a two year frame warranty. The child's version is particularly attractive. All models are compatible with Green Tyre. £425 to £550. Tel: 021-783 6081.

Sunrise Medical has owned the Shadow range of high-performance American manufactured sports equipment since February, which should improve availability. Tel: (0384) 480480.

Invacare is also into American manufactured sports

equipment with a similar range. Tel: (0656) 664321.

Trimchair, a mobile exercise system attached to a standard wheelchair, offers progressive resistance work-outs for upper and lower body fitness. The kit I saw on a Carters steel-framed chair cost £1,175, including the chair.



Bespoke indoor/outdoor Rollerchairs can be ready in 28 days

From V & A Marketing. Tel: (0222) 664564.

The Active Passive Trainer from Gerald Simonds is a personalised exercise system offering both aerobic exercise against a range of resistance and passive limb movement when its own motor takes the strain at different speeds. It was shown attached to a new stand, which makes it much more accessible for wheelchair users. £850, stand as yet unpriced.

Hoists and lifting

The seat on the new Minivator stairlift swings across the top of a flight of stairs to create a safety barrier – a great confidence booster. £1,800 fitted. An economy version, the 930ES, can be supplied to a local authority and fitted for around £1,600.

The Hoya Travel Lifter is a new, fully dismountable, hand operated hydraulic hoist for people to carry in the back of the car to work or wherever. Manufactured in America, it sells for £445. Both from Sunrise Medical.

Transmaster is a new transfer lift from Homecraft which bridges the gap between physical handling and hoisting arrangements. A wheeled development of the Bathmaster, it allows horizontal transfer from 14in to 31.5in. Reliable, quiet and maintenance free. Available with a mini-battery for home use. £562.96. Tel: (0623) 754047.

Miscellaneous ...

There has been a great deal of interest recently in passenger restraints for coaches and mini-buses. Now Unwin has a device which enables a wheelchair to be fixed from behind. The Rearlok provides a secure, four point fixing without struggling all round the wheelchair. £215. Tel: (0935) 75359.

An alternative is NMI Safety Systems which has a full range of well engineered products with some unique features. Tel: 081-801 5339.

A wheelchair passenger restraint system, Q'Straint, comes as a complete kit with installation guide and operation manual. It uses four single points of fixing for the wheelchair with lap and shoulder strap restraints for the passenger combined. A welcome alternative, especially where space is limited. Tel: (0227) 773035.

The Gezematic TS 7000 is a door opening and closing device operated by any switch. Door closing delay is fully adjustable. £1,200 to £1,500 if fitted with one switch. Mobility Aids Centre, tel: (0733) 342242.

Rob Jackson is director of the Derbyshire Centre for Integrated Living.

Mobility Matters



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It's all go with some competitive newcomers

John McFarlane checks out the new microtech

Considering Naidex is an international event, technology companies don't support it that well. Birmingham Naidex was short on quality and quantity, so I was glad to find good new products at Wembley as well as some interesting newcomers.

Liberator's range of Jelly Bean switches come in different sizes, are brightly coloured, light and durable, and well able to survive the “bounce” test. There is a complimentary range of holders. Extremely useful for children and people with learning difficulties. £39 each, holders for 2 switches £25, 4 for £35.

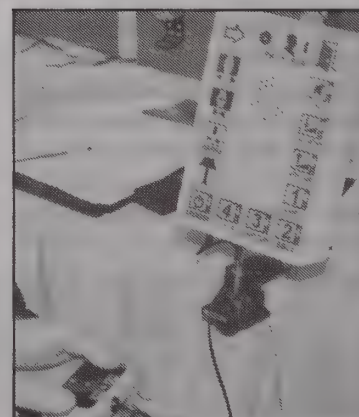
The SpeakEasy can record and play back up to 12 messages. About the size of a book, it can be activated via its own visual keyboard, which can be customised, or through external switches. The recordings are digitised speech, so can reflect the age and

personality of the user. £399.

Liberator also showed a range of mounting kits adaptable to any angle and circumstance. From £153 plus accessories as required. Tel: (0476) 550391.

Canon (UK) had a new communicator, CC-7S. It costs £1,027 plus accessories (which in some cases are a must, such as a display unit), although the device does have a built-in ribbon paper print-out. Accessories, from £7 for a keyboard cover to £945 for a compatible Apollo speech synthesiser unit, are impressive and durable. Tel: 081-773 3173.

Toby Churchill has managed to shoehorn DECtalk, arguably the leading speech synthesiser, into a compact new unit, Lightwriter model SL35. It has a range of voices – four male, four female and one child's – and features word prediction and a display for face to face communication.



Possum's prototype Free-way environmental control

£782 basic, plus £1,140 for DECtalk. Tel: (0223) 316117.

The Steeper group's Fox environmental control unit, first announced in Birmingham, has been through its Health Department trials and is now available, free, to severely disabled people who meet the environmental control criteria. Tel: 081-788 8165.

Possum Controls, who were subject to a takeover earlier in the year, demonstrated their prototype of the Freeway environmental control, a direct competitor to the Fox. Yet to go through trials and acceptance testing, it will not be generally available until

Buggies, bath seats and brightly coloured 'animals'

Jane Joester reports on children's equipment

Traffic is the first thing that comes to mind when one goes to Wembley Naidex, so I began there, looking for car seat systems for disabled children.

There was nothing new, but I was reminded that the "Handicapped Child" car seat, from Britax, is now available to go with the standard lap and diagonal seat belt. Previously, the seat needed a special fixing kit and could only be used in cars fitted with it. £283.50. Tel: (0264) 333343.

The Roehampton Seating Team have developed a buggy with a postural support system which is being marketed by Radcliffe Rehabilitation



Buddy Buggy gives good support

Services. The **Buddy Buggy**, is suitable for children from two to seven years with a maximum weight of five stone. There is a choice of two seat angles (110 and 95 degrees), and the seat locks onto the buggy frame, which can fold flat. The seat has a solid backrest, adjustable pelvic and thoracic supports, adjustable length ramped seat base, and is upholstered in a choice of three colours. Buggy £650. Extras from £6 to £56. Tel: (0280) 700256.

The Mobility Aids Centre, which markets the **Convaid Cruiser Buggy**, a positioning buggy in three sizes, going up to a young adult size, now has a torso vest to replace the trunk support and shoulder straps. I think this will make the chair even easier to use. I have both used and recommended this buggy for some very severely disabled youngsters because of the impressive range of "extras". There is also a strengthened version, which has been "crash tested" for use in buses, etc. £361-£550 for a basic Cruiser buggy. £72-£91, Torso vest. Other extras from £20-£150. Tel: (0733) 342242.

On to Kirton paediatric products, where I found two



Amy Parish, 5, from Cambridge, liked the colours and animal shapes on the Jenx stand
GRAHAM BOOL PHOTOGRAPHY

pieces of good bathtime equipment. The **Multi-Adjustable Bath Seat** is not new itself, but can be used as a shower trolley now that a new frame comes on castors. In two sizes, it has a head support that adjusts for hair washing and the option of being used out of the bath as a chair or wedge. It folds flat for portability.

The **Corner Bath Chair** now comes in a second, larger size. It gives moderate support for those with some sitting ability, or those who have intermittent balance problems. The seat has an optional grab rail and abduction block, and is supplied with velcro or buckle straps. It is a useful

little aid that will allow children to play safely in the bath without having to be supported. Multi Adjustable Bath Seat £195 and £237. Shower Frame £99. Bath Corner Seat £118 and £143.50. Tel: (0440) 705352.

The **Jenx stand** looked very colourful, with its new-look range of children's equipment. There were chairs, prone angle seats and standing frames for very young children in animal shapes and with bright upholstery. Larger size versions soon. Tel: (0742) 853376.

Quest 88 have produced a new standing frame called the **Flipper**. For young children (up to seven years), it is easy to use: the child can be put in

the frame in a lying position and then brought up to the vertical. There should be a larger size ready by Christmas. £380. Tel: (0952) 463050.

I had hoped to see some new toys or play equipment that I could recommend for indoor play over the winter, but I fell for kite flying when I saw a kite on the Toys for the Handicapped (TFH) stand! Otherwise, I recommend, as before, looking at the TFH and Rompa catalogues for toys for all ages and abilities. TFH, tel: (0299) 827820. Rompa, tel: (0645) 211777.

Jane Joester is therapy co-ordinator at The Spastics Society's Meldreth Manor School.

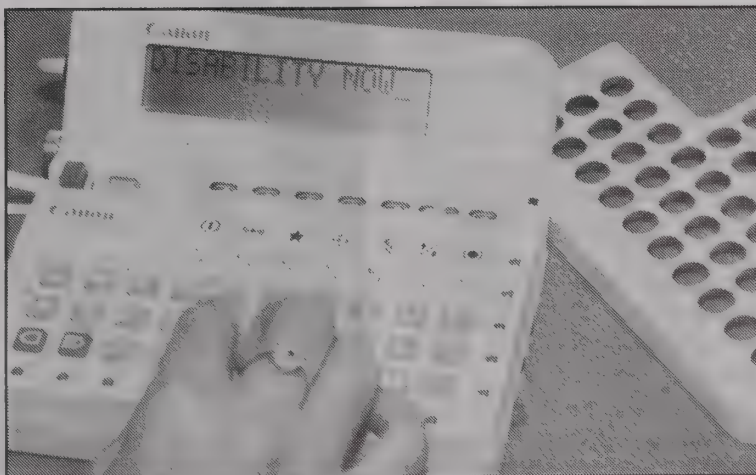
early 1995. No price yet. Possum hopes it will go on the Health Department's approval list. Tel: (0296) 81591.

Ridley Electronics was showing its first entry level warden **Ridley Call system** for sheltered housing schemes, etc, with six to 12 clients. It plugs straight into the mains 13-amp supply and is activated from a radio pendant, or other compatible Ridley switches. From £540, switches from £30.

Ridley has special offers on selected products if you place an order before 25 November 1994. Check now as the discounts and add-ons are impressive. Tel: 081-558 7112.

The Tana Trust, a small charity with an associated company, develops and manufactures items for elderly and disabled people. Their **adaptation of the Brother AX230 electronic typewriter**, for those unable to use their hands, is operated through an optical keyboard mounted above the machine, which in turn is activated through a head lamp. £694 for the lot, plus VAT. Tel: 071-920 0513.

At the other end of the market is voice recognition like Responsive Systems, new to the



Canon's CC-7S communicator with 'impressive' accessories

disability market, which claims that its Talk works with all systems and allows complete hand-free operation. But it does need a 486 33MHz chip, or better. Impressively, though, it can be fitted to a notebook computer and - another claimed first - it can read the text file into an automatic translation programme and then, through a voice synthesiser, output the result in one of six languages. £325 plus computer and accessories as required, dependent on the application software. These include Kurzweill, which itself adds a new dimension to existing

alternatives. Complete solutions, including machine, are available. Tel: 071-602 4107.

A cheaper solution for people who can use their fingers, is **TouchWindow** from Capital Electronics Development (see DN's special offer in July). A demonstration software application package, which put a keyboard on the screen, proved so popular it is now being included with the screen. Existing users will get a free copy. Tel: 081-573 3681.

John McFarlane is a computer consultant and trustee of the Computability Centre.

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DN11/94



Touch of romance: Soraya Misiri and Jason Ward

GRAHAM BOOL PHOTOGRAPHY

Models must grasp their opportunities

"Brilliant" was the reaction of Mik Scarlett, tv presenter and wheelchair user, on seeing the Sunrise Medical fashion show at Naidex, where the models were not able-bodied people but wheelchair users. He wondered, though, if the whole idea would be more than a seven day wonder given the fickleness of the media.

TV actress Julie Fernandez, on the other hand, thought the show "fantastic" and the whole idea could take off if it got enough publicity. "It's done very well so far." (The show made BBC *Breakfast Time*.)

The crowds certainly loved it, their pride bursting out in laughter, cheers and applause.

Twice a day for three days, six models, coached by Louise Dyson of the Birmingham-based model agency, showed off clothes from Next. She praised their professionalism, especially when they were still rehearsing at the end of a long day because there had been no power for the music.

But she was less impressed at their motivation to get into mainstream modelling. Bookings have been turned down or forgotten. Requests for photos (for which the



Music and movement: Shannon Murray

models won't have to pay) have gone unanswered.

A training day this month, paid for by Sunrise Medical, may help to air the problems. "To be a success in modelling, you have to be self-motivated," said Louise Dyson. "Unless you have the tenacity and the drive to succeed, you won't. You will be crushed by the opposition."

Louise Dyson, tel: 021-554 7878.

Do-it-yourself ideas that really help

Margaret Gilbert searches out what's new in home aids and services

Naidex was relatively uncrowded and easy to get round this year. The teams on the stands were friendly and helpful. I would like to make a plea again for children's equipment to be grouped together, as the cars are, so that busy parents do not have to spend time looking for the stands. It would also help those of us with visual and perceptual problems if the stand numbers were larger.

My favourite aid, new to Naidex, was the **Handy 1**, winner of many prizes (see *DN*, January '94). This single-switch robotic aid enables many people to control their mealtimes for the first time. It selects food, offers drinks and can be adapted for teeth cleaning, shaving and make-up. £3,950, inclusive of assessment, delivery, back-up and training, or £180 a month on hire. Tel: (0782) 712774.

If the benefits are balanced against the cost of enablers' time, perhaps it could be part of a social services package of care. Talk to your local care manager.

Coping in the bathroom

Next, an excellent range of small shower/toilets from Eastbourne Showers. Some were priced as low as £1,149. Fitting is extra, but they can be level access, ramped, or come with a 35mm step. Used with a traditional waste system or a pump (£189 extra), these cabinets could be the answer to compact, ground floor facilities and might even fit under stairs.

Tel: (0323) 765875.

Calcol of Walton on Thames, Surrey, has qualified surveyors giving **free estimates** within the M25 ring. (Any builder must be VAT registered if you want to reclaim VAT.) Tel: (0923) 253435

Eastbourne Showers also introduced the **Geberit toilet/shower 7000**. It combines the functions of toilet and bidet with warm air drying, restoring privacy and independence to personal hygiene. The temperature and flow can be controlled by the user and the dryer shuts off automatically when the person leaves the toilet. £1,700 plus installation.

Apollo baths has a compact solution for families with limited space and a member who needs special facilities. The **Options Bath** is particularly good for anybody who needs to transfer from a wheelchair for bathing. The seat is hydraulic and can be swung out of the way for the rest of the family or completely removed in 30 seconds. £2,400, it fits into an ordinary bath space. Tel: (0703) 667711.



Prize-winning Handy 1

The Oxford Hoist Company's new **Standard Transport System** is competitively priced and has many well thought out features. The safe sling system is simple and comfortable to use, and the ergonomic design means there is no painful underarm lifting. It should also help prevent dislocation of shoulders from lifting. Users must have some muscle tone,

recommended if fitted to a single bed. (£364). Tel: (0233) 500550.

Without looking at all institutional, the **Volker 2080E Complete Home Nursing Bed** has features to ease carers' lives and help with pressure care. £1,995. BaKare Beds, tel: (0752) 254000.

Get writing

Posturite's range of portable **angled writing boards** help achieve ideal posture almost anywhere, preventing and relieving neck and back pain and shoulder fatigue. £79.95. The **keyboard holder** (£24.95) was designed for wheelchair users, and the **dual purpose bookholder** sits on top of the board for reference material. £19.95. The **Writing Bird** is designed for people with little or no grip to fit the shape of the hand. The pen is fixed into the bird which can then glide along paper with slight pressure. It was possible to write legibly at once. £14.95. Tel: (0323) 833353.



Sarah Dearing from Kent tries the Apollo Options bath

so it will not be suitable for everybody. The best feature is the "easy to use" standing sling with push button controls. £1,925. Tel: (0865) 881881.

Let your partner sleep

Centromed's **Mattress Variator** (£330) and **Leg Lifter** (£375) already enable people to sit up in bed independently and raise and lower their legs to reach bed or chairs.

Their new **Qutec motor** will allow you to do both without waking your partner or the neighbours. Cot sides

Red star services

Finally, I want to mention The **Red Cross**, first time Naidex exhibitors. Their **short-term medical loan service** is invaluable in an emergency. Contact your local office or Jo Waters or Catherine Nestor, tel: 071-201 5016/8. The **transport and escort service** is for people needing to make an essential journey, who for various reasons find it difficult to travel unaided or use public transport. Contact as above.

Margaret Gilbert is Service Manager at Ealing Day Treatment Centre.

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THEATRE

The touring company Show of Hands specialises in performing classic theatre and using what they term “artistic sign” to attract audiences of deaf and hearing people.

In their latest production, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (based on the Oscar Wilde novel that is still to be found on every art student’s shelf), they use the old trick of having hearing actors who adorn the set as credible observers whilst surreptitiously providing the voice for the main characters who sign.

My hearing actor companion said the voices were superb and, indeed, even the signing was most intelligible for a change.

The all-male cast doubled in male and female roles, the latter in 1970s Monty Python style. I suppose meagre Arts Council grants precluded casting actresses in such minor roles, but the contemporary camping up didn’t jive well in the politically correct glumness of 1994. However, the equal opportunities imperative fared better with the debut of deaf actor Frank Essery who promises to be a talented character actor.

The “artistic sign” may have been elegant for the sign-illiterate hearing audience, but the arty movement resulted in everything being signed very slowly and with no variety in pace or attention to how BSL is signed in character. If I stayed awake for one-and-a-half hours, it was because I was sitting on a narrow plank

The Picture of Dorian Gray



Framed: Dietrich Nanton stars in Oscar Wilde’s disturbing tale

MARK COWPER

that Battersea Arts Centre (BAC) calls a theatre seat. (There’s no access for disabled people to the main theatre at BAC either.) Show of Hands delivered the signed equivalent of five actors speaking in an unbearably slow monotone.

It is customary for a deaf audience to wave their hands rather than clap in applause – a show of hands or vote if you like. But we chose to clap rather than give the deaf cultural vote at the final bow. As always, hearing people

thought the signing “was wonderful”. I rest my case. Maggie Woolley

For Show of Hands tour schedule (ending in Birmingham on 3 December), tel: 071-354 5421 (voice and minicom).

FILM

Andy Kimpton-Nye



Bad Boy Bubby

Looking at the world through the eyes of an innocent (which is movie-speak for someone with learning difficulties) is all the rage at the moment. We’ve had *Forrest Gump* from America. Now it’s *Bad Boy Bubby* from Australia. With one major difference: Bubby is Gump with the glossy veneer ripped off.

Bubby (Nick Hope) is a 35-year-old who literally knows no other world than the squalid flat he lives in with his ageing mother (Claire Beniton). She feeds, shaves, abuses, sleeps with him and tells him the world outside is suffocating and uninhabitable

without a gas-mask. Bubby is starved of the oxygen of everyday life.

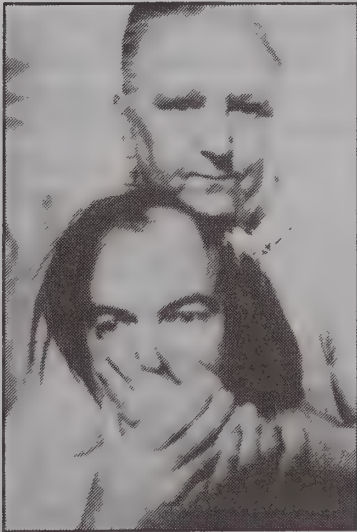
Out of the blue, Bubby’s father turns up. As oppressive as Bubby’s life with his mother has been, he cannot cope with a third person on the scene. So, he murders both mum and dad with the aid of clingfilm.

This propels him on a journey into the outside world and exposes him to religion, violence, alcohol, rock music, atheism and pizza, more or less in that order.

The opening 40 minutes or so of director Rolf de Heer’s film are so uncomfortable I found myself thinking, “Who on earth is going to stay and watch this?” The colours are unrelenting pale and sickly. Bubby’s flat is reduced to such a disgusting degree of rankness you can almost smell it, while the confined space and non-stop abuse of Bubby by his mother conjures up a Kafka-like nightmare.

But the film’s reflections on the absurdity, cruelty and hypocrisy of the world, as witnessed through the eyes of Bubby, go some way towards redeeming it.

Another redeeming factor is the film’s attempt to highlight



Help! Bubby Boy and Mum

society’s inability to deal with difference. As well as the gross mistreatment of Bubby, some tyrannical parents attack their daughter for being “fat” and staff at an institution for people with cerebral palsy fail to communicate with the “inmates”.

Interestingly, *Time Out*’s critic found the use of “real-life handicapped people” (sic) in the institution scenes left him feeling “uneasy”. I think this is a classic comment on how able-bodied people simply feel “uneasy” with disabled people.

London Film Festival

The 38th London Film Festival, 3-20 November, has *Mary Shelley’s Frankenstein*, a classic tale of society creating a monster, from Brit director Kenneth Branagh; *Muriel’s Wedding*, an Aussie reworking of the “ugly duckling” theme; *Midnight Movie*, romance, memory and identity, Dennis Potter’s last work; and *To Die For*, about coming to terms with losing a lover to AIDS.

Box Office, tel: 071-928 3232.

Video top five

1. JURASSIC PARK (CIC): It’s dinosaurs for Spielberg.
2. ON DEADLY GROUND (Warner): Steven Seagal actioner with Green politics.
3. PHILADELPHIA (Columbia): Legal AIDS battle with Tom Hanks.
4. SERIAL MOM (Guild): Kathleen Turner turns killer. (N)
5. KALIFORNIA (20:20): More serial killing in the USA (N)

TV



Chris Davies

So far I have seen two of the six episodes of the drama serial *Takin’ Over the Asylum* (from 27 Sept, BBC 2). And I can’t wait to see the rest.

It’s a kind of Scottish combination of *Shoestring* and *One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest*. The central figure is a double glazing salesman who would much prefer to be a disc jockey. He tries to double up his day job with running a hospital radio in a psychiatric hospital. His presence and his music act as a catalyst for the survivors there, and I reckon that by the end of the story it will be they who are taking over the asylum. It’s a wonderful indictment of institutionalisation and a positive portrayal of those who survive the system.

Another powerful drama, *The Healer*, (19 & 20 Sept, BBC 1), was more dubious in its disability content. It was about an NHS doctor who could cure people by touch.

Reluctant at first to accept his gift, he heals animals. Then he revives a young boy who hospital colleagues have diagnosed as incurable. The media pursue him, trying to prove he is a fraud or a miracle worker.

Under pressure, he fails to cure people and runs away, meeting an ex-patient, a wheelchair user with cerebral palsy (cp). The man, denied access to the healer, had accidentally been thrown on the floor in the rush. The doctor casually picks him up and walks away. Suddenly the man is cured – a not totally surprising ending since the actor was doing a good impersonation of Richard Briers portraying Daniel Day Lewis as Christy Brown.

This drama had an excellent core – the conflict between conventional and non-conventional medicine – but using an impairment like cp in such a sensationalist way spoiled an otherwise credible film.

Quickies: *See Hear* and *Sign On* have returned; more on the first when I get used to its new style. Both shows carry open subtitles, and from now on I will indicate here which programmes have closed or open subtitles (CS/OS).

The first and last in Channel 4’s series *Look Who’s Talking*, for, by, and about children, *Child’s Eye* (CS), and *Don’t Forget Your Soapbox*, featured a disabled child well. In London, ITV had a disability week (from 4 October) with the first of four weekly documentaries *Everyday Lives* (CS). More when I’ve seen the series.

Share Your Problems

Watch out for professional counsellors



Ann Dambrough, DN, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ

How can any of us function if we do not have the information we need to live integrated lives in our communities?

According to a recent correspondent, who I shall call Bill, one of the main areas in which disabled people are constantly discriminated against is access to information. "For example, newspapers are not readily available in alternative formats, therefore blind people in particular do not have freedom of information."

"Although there are talking newspapers, the contents of them is largely at the discretion of the readers."

Readers of *Disability Now* are better informed than most, but it would be interesting to hear where you get the wide range of information you need, so that your experiences can be shared with other readers.

Do you visit the local Citizens' Advice Bureau or a DIAL (Disability Information Advice Line), or do you have some useful books? Or do you, like Bill, find it very difficult to keep up with local news? Do let me know.

Bill also refers to the information about special needs we convey as we go

about our daily lives. He asks whether multi-impaired people (he is blind and uses a wheelchair) would find it helpful to carry a symbol as a means of informing people.

His blindness is not always recognised and misunderstandings occur. "At present, there is no symbol for these disabled people to carry, unlike blind people who have a white cane and blind-deaf people who carry a striped cane."

Bill would welcome suggestions from other multi-impaired people: "The only way to tackle the discrimination which multi-impaired people face, is for them to unite by pooling their knowledge to counteract the old worn out single base prejudices which face, in particular, people like myself when they are trying to conduct everyday life."

PC = potty claptrap

"Potty claptrap" was how John described political correctness (pc) in another publication. "I am a tetraplegic wheelchair-bound cripple and see no point in calling myself 'differently able'. Indeed, it is insulting, because it completely glosses over my very real difficulties."

Does it? Or does being concerned as to how we address each other contribute to our respect for others?

Very often when we have to change our language to accommodate somebody else's sensibilities we gain valuable insights into their lives.

For instance, I recently had the pleasure of reading the very interesting magazine of the World Federation of the Deaf. I learned a lot about deaf culture and I noticed that the word "deaf" always had a capital letter because "Deaf" people see themselves as having a very distinctive identity, as do English people and French people.

Should People with Learning Disabilities, because they are distinctive, also have capital letters? Likewise, perhaps, Disabled People? Is this the latest pc we must learn? What do you think?

Feelings bared

How easy is it to share our feelings? And, when we do, how often are they misunderstood? The one thing I really hated about the commune in which I lived for three years was (don't laugh) the weekly feelings meetings.

As far as I could see, my fellow communards were only interested in certain kinds of feelings - those that affected them and were sufficiently dramatic, like "I hate you".

The meetings were no help at all if we had real problems.

In July, I wrote about the need to confide in someone else when life gets on top of us. And I know that many readers do just this when they ring my *DN* colleague, counsellor Lin Berwick.

Look out for Lin on tv



Lin Berwick, *DN's* telephone counsellor, is in the news. First it was a RADAR

award for services to disabled people, which she will receive on 2 November. Then, in October, she featured in a 30-second profile for Carlton. And this month you can see her discussing peer counselling in Channel Four's *People First* series. "Give & Take"

is on 28 November at 8pm.

Lin is a psychotherapeutic counsellor, fully accredited Methodist local preacher, and qualified homeopath. Disabled herself, she can give other disabled people and their carers advice and support on personal and spiritual problems.

Talk to her on Monday afternoons, 1pm-5pm and Thursdays 6pm-10pm. Her telephone number is (0708) 477582.

Mike, who is a qualified counsellor, wrote to say how much he agreed with my advice about choosing a counsellor carefully. He said that it often takes a few trials before you find a counsellor you feel comfortable with, and pointed out that many counsellors are happy to provide the first meeting free of charge.

The trouble is that it may take a lot of courage to seek out a counsellor in the first place and we may not feel able to risk the emotional upset of trying again.

Mike took up the question about confiding in friends or seeking professional help: "There are certainly times when we need to talk about our physical and/or emotional state, to share a burden or to help get things into some sort of perspective."

"I am fortunate in that I have found people I know to be very good listeners, neither condescending nor shocked

about my physical difficulties, but genuinely understanding."

"However, there is still room for a counsellor to be consulted because, with an independent, professionally trained person, it can be possible to explore some of the emotions and 'dark' thoughts around anger and frustration, for example, which could be too risky to discuss with someone close."

"Choosing the wrong confidante can be one of the worst experiences a person can have. Talking to someone insensitive to your feelings, or more concerned with their own problems, or with an axe to grind, can be devastating."

"Because someone is a professionally qualified person, it does not necessarily mean they are the best person to talk to. This applies to doctors, psychotherapists or counsellors."

"We tend to feel they are the people to talk to, purely by virtue of their qualifications. This means that we sometimes leave ourselves wide open to 'assaults' on our vulnerability."

"I had this myself with a group of working counsellors on a weekend professional learning experience. In group counselling many people, (including counsellors), feel that being 'honest' and 'sharing' are synonymous with a disregard for another person's feelings."

Damaging assault

"Being on the receiving end of an 'assault' on one's innermost being can be beneficial, but more often than not it is unwarranted and damaging."

"What can make the damage worse is the tactic employed by some antagonists in this situation when, having reduced some vulnerable individual to a raw emotional state, they pardon themselves from any complicity or guilt in the matter by levelling the accusation: 'You set yourself up'."

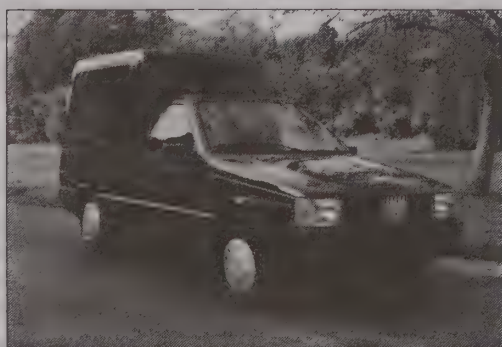
"Or, in terms that might be employed by a corrupt police officer: 'I didn't beat the accused up your Honour, he threw himself down the stairs!' Thus, they compound your difficulties by trying to make you take the blame for them."

You have been warned!



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Making a splash

It was Harry, my husband, who told me about the swimming for disabled people on Wednesday afternoons; he read it out aloud from our local rag.

We arrived early to find a queue of elderly people. I couldn't understand why there weren't more chairs provided. How typically British I thought, no one complaining.

"Only the first 30," said the official behind the desk. Harry and I just managed to squeeze in. "You and your wife can undress in the girls' changing room, nobody uses it." Harry was in such a state of anxiety that he posted me at the door where anyone entering could have bowled me over easily.

Once changed, we had a good laugh at our "overflowing" reflections in the mirror. "Come on," I said. "Let's go for it!" Harry hesitated.

Harry helped me to the lifting chair - it reminded me of a ducking stool. Was this Harry's way of getting his own back? The attendant asked if I wanted armbands. "Certainly Not!" I protested.

Harry watched over me as I was lowered into the water. "Try and swim a few strokes," he said. I did, and I couldn't. I sank to the bottom of the pool. Harry retrieved me and took me to the side where the armbands waited. I howled like a banshee. The water rose with the tears I shed.

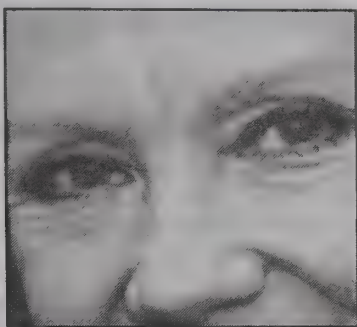
The other bathers were grouped round chatting about their last visit to their GPs and who was on what tablet. Tummies bulged, breasts sagged, scrotums looked enormous - we were all ageing.

Grandchildren came a close second after ailments in the topics of conversation. I noticed that we all extolled the virtues of our own and rarely listened about anyone else's.

My entrance into the water had attracted a lot of attention. One group murmured loudly: "What's the matter with her?" The spokeswoman swam over. "Rheumatism is it?" she asked sweetly. I shook my head. She swam back. "No it isn't rheumatism," she reported. "She's had a stroke then," said someone else. The spokeswoman returned. "Have you had a stroke?" This time I said "no". She returned to report no progress and then a very large lady with the biggest bust I have ever seen took up the challenge: "Why are you partially paralysed dear?" How could I refuse to tell her after such persistence? "I've had a brain tumour, an abscess and two embolisms," I said, giving them all something to talk about.

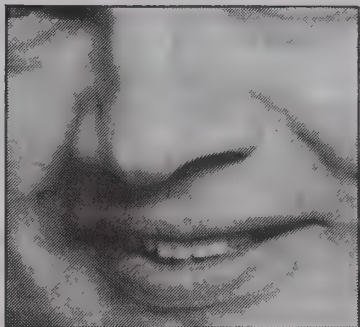
My prestige in the pool that day was unbelievable. Even Harry looked proud.

Patricia Pugh



Whose face is it anyway?

Answers below



Whose face is it anyway? (clockwise): Mr Motivator (Derek Evans), Hayley Mills, John Bowis and Sue Pollard.

TRIVIA QUIZ

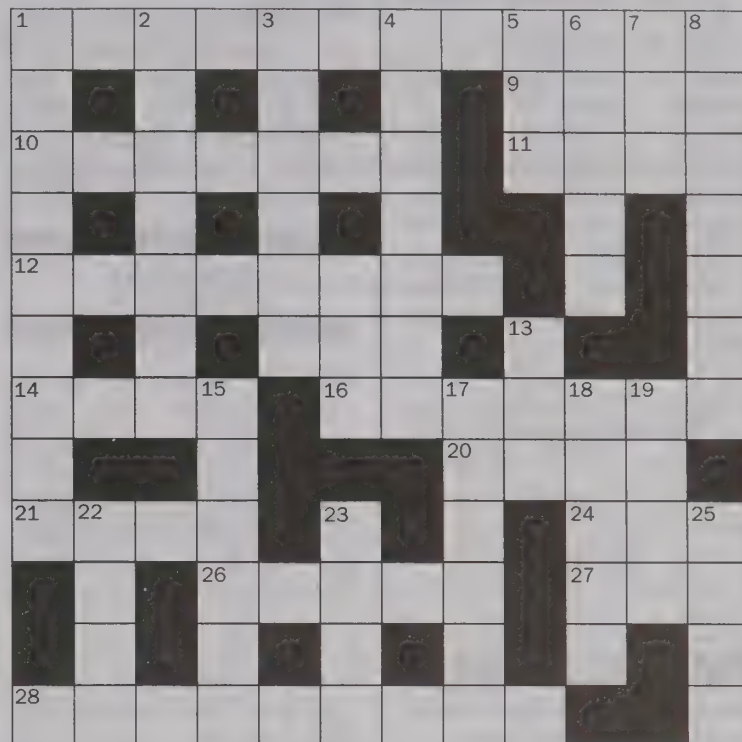
Answers on page 31

- Which sport for two or four players originated in England in the late 19th Century?
- Who hosts the new series of *University Challenge*?
- Name the oldest university in the USA.
- Which island lies at the south west entrance to the Bay of Naples?
- Name the red hot pepper sauce used to flavour soups, stews and curries.
- Who stars alongside Elle "The Body" MacPherson in *Sirens*?
- Which are the only two cricketers to score six sixes in an over?
- Which award-winning comedy is set in a tv newsroom?
- What is Shogi?
- Who starred in *The Westerner*, *Sergeant York* and *High Noon*?

DN's crossword

Answers on page 31

COMPILED BY REBECCA REYNOLDS



ACROSS

- & 26. member of 1 down (7,2,3,5)
- Sound of a cough (4)
- Hung limply (7)
- Clothing (4)
- Nicer tag (anag) (8)
- Shortened name - rhymes with 18 down (4)
- What a carer does (7)
- Russian ruler (4)
- Cry of pain (4)
- Short sleep (3)
- See 1 across (5)
- Change colour of something (3)
- Hut among branches (9)

DOWN

- High-ranking lawyers (9)
- Poured forth - or spoke endlessly (7)
- Not wholly (2,4)
- Conclusions (7)
- Slang for cigarette (3)
- Show gratitude (5)
- Female pronoun (3)
- Badges or symbols (7)
- Not belonging to 7 down (3)
- Cry of joy (6)
- Pressure (6)
- Gritty (5)
- Aid in carrying cups, etc (4)

JOKING A-SIDE

Which side is the best to have the handle of a teacup on? *The outside.*
What did the policeman say to

his stomach? *I've got you under a vest.*
How do you make time fly? *Throw a clock over your shoulder.*
What do policemen eat for tea? *Truncheon meat.*

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INVISIBLE WALL

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The Invisible Wall is a series of three half hour programmes for BBC1 that highlight the invisible barriers faced by disabled people.

The documentaries will use secret filming to highlight the many problems faced by a variety of people on a daily basis, whether they are access related or more a question of attitude.

The production team are currently looking for examples of prejudice to record and a number of disabled contributors who could investigate claims of discrimination.

We are looking for experiences from all aspects of life; if you've had a problem with banks, colleges, in the work place, on public transport, in cinemas, health clubs, relationships, healthcare, or any others, please contact Rachel Wexler on the above address or fax her on the above number.

INFO

Enhancing Independence is a guide for people working with disabled people. It includes sections on assessment, design, mobility equipment, leisure activities, benefits and adaptations which can be made to the home. £5, from Care & Repair, Castle House, Kirtley Drive, Nottingham NG7 1LD, tel: (0602) 799091.

CHIP is an information service for families and people who work with children with special needs in the Highlands. Details from CHIP, Drummond School, Drummond Road, Inverness IV2 4NZ, tel: (0463) 711189.

APPOINTMENTS

David Phillips is now director of the Holiday Care Service.

Lineage ads

Due to the large number of recruitment ads this month, we are unable to include our classified ad form. If you would like to advertise next month, call DN, tel: 071-636 5020 and we will send you a form. Alternatively, you can use a form from a back copy.

PROPERTY FOR SALE

CONVERTED TWO BEDROOM house, through-floor lift, flat flush floor shower, open plan 20ft x 8ft conservatory, fish pond, easy front/rear garden, large front Auzy porch, village location, Wittersharn, Kent, £62,000. Tel: (0797) 270504.

SOUTH DEVON, PLYMOUTH, terraced four bedroom house, city centre, fully wheelchair accessible, stairlift, shower room for wheelchair, grab bars, two bathrooms, Victorian features maintained, double glazed, electric security blind, central heating, ramps, back yard, alarmed garage, £69,950 ono. Tel: (0752) 660 793.

EXQUISITE THREE BEDROOM bungalow, Mill Hill, London. Designed with accessibility in mind, including en-suite level access shower and dressing room, large bathroom, ramped patio and accessible garden. Excellent decoration with new carpet, double glazing and gas central heating. £119,950. Contact Marina 081-906 3424 home or 081-869 3081 work.

MODERN SEMI-DETACHED bungalow, central heating, double glazing, garage, jacuzzi, bathroom, separate shower and toilet, hall, two bedrooms, fitted kitchen, large conservatory, magnificent views over Pennine village, £68,000, west Yorkshire. Contact Mr C Brooker, tel: (0484) 854104.

FOUR BEDROOM semi with double glazing and gas central heating. One ground floor bedroom, en-suite luxury four piece shower room, oak fitted kitchen, fridge freezer, cooker, dining room, hall, lounge. Upstairs, three large bedrooms, bathroom with power shower. Ramps, patios, gardens, £59,950, Burnley, Lancs. Tel: (0282) 37451.

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TOILET for a disabled person, £1,200 ono. Tel: 061-864 1409.

HAND CONTROLS Citroen BX16, 1991, £50. Tel: (0995) 640577 Lancashire

NIAGARA MASSAGE BED, only £95. Single (2ft 6in), suit child or small adult, as new condition. Tel: 061-480 8624 Manchester.

Have you got something to say about sexuality and disability? Tom Shakespeare is producing a book and would like to hear from disabled people (especially in the North East, East Midlands and London) on all aspects of sexuality. Contact Tom Shakespeare, Sunderland University, Ryhope Road, Sunderland SR2 7EE.

HELP!

BBC TV South would like disabled people who have received deliverance ministry to contribute to a documentary. Contact Jenny Craddock, BBC TV South, Broadcasting House, Havelock Road, Southampton SO14 7PU, tel: (0703) 226201.

Calling all deaf artists ... Shape London Deaf Arts is looking for deaf painters, photographers, etc, to take part in

an exhibition in Cambridge in 1995. Contact John Wilson, minicom: 071-700 8144.

Do you use mobility products? If you are aged 20-55, live in the South East, and are willing to be interviewed at home, contact the Design for Ability Research Unit, Central St. Martins College of Art & Design, Southampton Row, London WC1B 4AP, tel: 071-753 9090 ext 244. If writing, include your day time telephone number.

All Clear Designs would like to contact visually impaired people for a project on getting around buildings. Details from All Clear Designs, 107 The Chandlery, 50 Westminster Bridge Road, London SE1 7QY, tel: 071-721 7479.

Roy Green, of Birmingham University, would like disabled people to take part in a survey on forming relationships. Contact Roy Green, tel: 021-561 1573.

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MEYRA ELECTRIC good working order, £250. Tel: (0283) 713278.

LARK TRIUMPH battery chair, perfect, with charger, £1,000 ono. Tel: (0922) 476151.

LARK 4 electric scooter, used once, bought October 1993, cost £2,400, will accept £1,595, valid reason for sale. Tel: 081-561 1287.

CARTER CRUSADER with kerb riders, 24-volt batteries, nice condition, £400. Tel: 081-948 6960.

SUNRISE MEDICAL electric chair, Bec, three-years-old, mint condition, never used, portable and kerb climbers. Was £2,019.95, will sell for £1,500. Tel: (0785) 850533.

ALEXIS electrically-powered chair, electrically operated, variable reclining seat and elevating foot rests. Still under warranty, cost £3,660 new, bargain at £2,600. Sale due to bereavement. Tel: (0705) 258711.

AUSTIN CLUBMAN ESTATE, X reg, 36,000 miles, Gowring conversion, two seats, from ramp anchorages, wheelchair space back only, £500. Tel: (0602) 603694.

NEUROTECH NT16 PSC neuromuscular electric stimulation system, three-months-old, was £2,850 new, now £600. Also Ventura disabled transport vehicle, including battery charger, £400. Tel: (0784) 477876.

DUDLEY EXTRA PLUS outdoor electric wheelchair, climbs kerbs, serviced, good condition, comes with charger and waterproofs, £500 ono. Tel: (0923) 827222.

ELAP ROTATING passenger car seat, suitable for Vauxhall Astra, almost new, comes with head restraint, £375 ono. Tel: (0753) 864396.

AMIGA SPORTS SCOOTER for adult or child. Can dismantle into car, one-year-old (used four times), comes with charger and spare battery. Was £2,500, now £1,500 ono. Contact Mrs Johnson, tel: 081-466 0727.

FORD TRANSIT SWB 80, semi-high roof, garnet red, March 1994, 1,300 miles, automatic, power assisted steering, fitted with twin batteries, electric windows, Ricon side lift, Unwin tie down and two rear seats. Suitable with further conversion for driving from wheelchair, £14,750. Tel: 081-647 2709 Croydon, Surrey.

ELECTRIC VITESSE WHEELCHAIR 2000, dual control, two-years-old, new batteries, vgc, £1,000. Tel: 081-940 6942.

BARGAIN - ELSWICK ENVOY, A reg, full MOT, bereavement forces urgent sale, £1,850. Tel: (0329) 667129 Fareham.

POIRIER POSITELEC reclining electric wheelchair, hardly used, cost £3,000, will sell for £1,500. Tel: (0865) 858474 Oxford.

J REG, FIAT SAFARI, white, 1.7 diesel, January 1992, 10,800 miles, wheelchair rear entry and winch, with extras £7,500. Also, Panther PE50 indoor/outdoor, used only five months, dual control, £3,700. Tel: (0793) 526709.

SUNGIFT 400, four-wheel electric vehicle. Excellent condition, hardly used. All-weather canopy, new battery, 16-month warranty. Tel: (0558) 650423.

WHAT'S ON

Safety and Prevention: the parent's role, the teacher's role, a workshop for carers of deaf children on 5 November in London. £5.88 parents and carers, £58.75 professionals. Contact National Deaf Children's Society, Family Services Centre, 24 Wakefield Road, Rothwell Haigh, Leeds LS26 0SF, tel: (0532) 823458 (voice and text).

Value Added Tactics, a conference for organisations of disabled people on 7 November in London. £7-15. Details from Alexis Keir, Greater London Association of Disabled People, 336 Brixton Road, London SW9 7AA, tel/minicom: 071-274 0107.

Getting Re-provisioning Right in Learning Disability Services, a conference for professionals on 10-11 November in Southampton. From £130. Details from Jan Baker, Institute for Health Policy Studies, tel: (0703) 592698.

Controversies in Cerebral Palsy, the annual conference of the Trengweath Trust on 18 November in Plymouth. £45. Contact Paul Evans, Old Rectory, Fore Street, Plympton St Maurice, Plymouth PL7 3LZ, tel: (0752) 336945.

Sexuality and Older People, a course for carers of older people on 23 November in London. £50. Details from Sharon Steele, Age Concern, tel: 081-679 5481.

Innovation in Autism, a conference for parents, professionals and service providers on 24-25 November in Belfast. £20 parents, £60 professionals. Details from Parents, Professionals and Autism Resource Centre, tel: (0232) 401729.

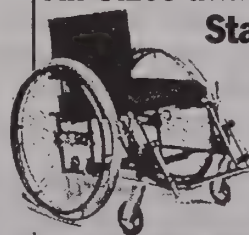
Good Care, Good Practice, Good Business, a seminar for people involved in home care service on 30 November in Reading. Contact Maggie Uttley, tel: (0734) 790888 or Pat Seeley, tel: (0734) 866900.

British Computer Society Disabled Specialist Group annual conference on 1 December at the Christmas Computer Shopper exhibition, Olympia. Details from Geoff Busby, tel: (0245) 473331 ext 3950.

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ELECTRIC WHEELCHAIR BEC, free wheel position enables chair to be pushed. Excellent condition, complete with battery and charger. £350. Tel: (0886) 833294.

SUNRISE POWER WHEELCHAIR, right-hand control, kerb climber, new June 1994. Will accept £1,600 ono. Tel: 081-546 3989.

MANGAR LIFTER with compressor sides and arms, multi-purpose, perfect working order, £200. Tel: (0703) 456318.

SEAT VISTA CHAIRMAN, August 1991, 13,000 miles, 12 months MOT, lowering suspension, easy rear ramp wheelchair access with belts, £5,750. Tel: (0483) 570695.

NISSAN CARCHAIR VANETTE with electric winch and ramp. Excellent condition, only 4,000 miles, reg June '93, fully alarmed and garaged, 1,500cc, petrol, four seats plus wheelchair, only £7,500 for quick sale. Tel: (0923) 771146.

SHOPRIDER four-wheel, 20 mile range, Enterprise charger, £1,000. Tel: (0636) 704064.

GENTLE LIFT RECLINER CHAIR, beige, was £1,350 new, now £800 ono. Tel: (0636) 704064.

SLEEPEZE fully adjustable bed, massage, 4ft 6in, remote control, was £2,300 new, now £1,800 ono. Tel: (0636) 704064.

INTERBILITY underfloor pull-out wheelchair ramp for Volkswagen, virtually unused, cost £800 new, now £500. Tel: (0875) 870557 Aberlady, Lothian.

ADAPTED FORD TRANSIT VAN, Kingfisher customised, blue, F reg, fully converted for driver using electric wheelchair. Hand controls, power steering, power drop floor for driver with Hooky clamp system, remote control and sliding door/lift. One careful owner, full service history, £12,000. Tel: 081-459 1324 for more information.

RECONDITIONED STAIRLIFTS
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FOR SALE cont

BEC SPORTS light wheelchair. Vgc, 18in-wide frame, £350 ono. Tel: (0205) 355130 Boston, Lincolnshire.

LARK 4 motorised wheelchair, hardly used, £1,500. Tel: (0502) 537780.

BATRICAR POWERIDE 3 electric buggy, £695. Tel: (0273) 306839.

THERAPOSTURE ELECTRIC BED, £850. Tel: 081-883 9571.

CUSHION LIFT CHAIR, mink-coloured draylon, immaculate condition, cost £750, will accept £350. Tel: (0698) 883907 after 5pm.

WHEELCHAIR BOWLERS Bradshaw bowls buggy, two-years-old, play on the green, indoors or out. Excellent condition, comes with its own transporter. Cost over £1,000 new, now only £575. Tel: (0252) 629465 Fleet, Hampshire.

HYDRAULIC CAR TOP HOIST, easy to fit and use. Good condition, any offer considered. Tel: (0277) 215800.

NISSAN PRAIRIE, F reg, one owner, converted to take wheelchair. Tax and MOT until end of January 1995, £5,250. Tel: (0703) 263193 Southampton.

EVEREST & JENNINGS runaround electric wheelchair, perfect condition, new batteries and charger included, £600 ono. Tel: (0273) 594491.

CARTERS CHEETAH powerchair with headrest and accessories. 17in seat, right/left hand drive, vgc - only used one year. £980. Tel: (0202) 871484.

NEW INVACARE PANTHER electric powered wheelchair complete with batteries and charger. Used only two hours, and in mint condition. Any reasonable offer considered. Tel: (0494) 728659/724984.

ESCORT, E reg, immaculate, low mileage, power-assisted steering, stereo, electric windows and Bekker controls. Automatic lift takes electric wheelchair in and out of driver's side, £4,000 ono. Tel: (0737) 842458.

ORTHO-KINETICS express wheelchair, three-years-old, cost in excess of £800 new, bargain at £400. Tel: (0277) 655658.

VERTICAL CARRIAGE LIFT installed and working, all reasonable offers considered. Tel: (0462) 434068.

LARK TRIUMPH 1992 three-wheel scooter. Hardly used, £850 ono, cost £1,990 new. View London W5. Tel: (0628) 36325.

BEC STIRLING SCOOTER, as new, with charger and leg bag, £1,250. Tel: (0564) 776860.

SMALL SYMMETRIKIT CHAIR, blue, good condition, suit seven to teens, £250. Tel: (0332) 521332 Derby.

ESCORT CHAIRMAN 1985 with low-ering suspension. One year MOT, vgc, low mileage, £2,400 ono. Tel: (0483) 502751 Guildford.

SET OF HAND CONTROLS for Metro automatic, £60. Tel: (0303) 221733.

LARK SCOOTER, 18-months-old, hardly used, £800 ono. Tel: 081-715 8273.

CONSTABLE CARCHAIR and remote controlled hoist for passenger side of car. Was used in Nissan Prairie to take electric wheelchair out of car. £1,750 ono. Tel: 061-434 9520 Manchester.

WATER BED, double with mahogany headboard, £500. Booster Scooter, Town & Country, £1,000. Two upright arm-chairs, offers. Tel: (0787) 476967 Essex.

RECLINING LIFTING CHAIR, model 2745, brown, plus adjustable bed, 51in high. Tel: 071-602 4500.

ROMO LOW PROFILE dry flotation wheelchair cushion, 16in x 16in, as new £230. Interbility hydraulic tailgate lift for van, three-years-old, £1,500. Everactive turbo Bobcat powered wheelchair, £800. Tel: (0273) 509401 Sussex.

HOIST, will take up to 20 stone person, vertical and horizontal travel. Good condition, £300. Tel: (0234) 214567.

TENDERS

TENDER FOR REPAIR AND MAINTENANCE OF WHEELCHAIRS

The Employment Service (ES) is an Executive Agency responsible for running the national network of over 1300 Jobcentres. The ES provides specialist services for people with disabilities through its Placing, Assessment and Counselling Teams (PACTs) and Ability Development Centres (ADCs).

One aspect of this specialist advice and guidance involves the provision of wheelchairs to help people with disabilities obtain or retain employment.

The ES is seeking to let a two year contract for the maintenance and repair of manual and electric wheelchairs which are stored in Birmingham for issue. The successful tenderer(s)

may be required to service and repair wheelchairs supplied by the PACT network throughout England, Scotland and Wales.

Interested companies should apply for the tender documents by telephone, quoting reference to:

Paul Kaczmarek
The Employment Service
Disability Services 4
Skills House
3-7 Holy Green
off The Moor
Sheffield
S1 4JA
(Tel) 01142 596005

All completed tenders should be received at the above address no later than noon, Monday 16 January 1995



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CHAIRMAN ESCORT, 31,500 miles, rear access for wheelchair, MOT, maintained regularly, £3,000. Oxford mini hoist, £400. Bereavement sale. Tel: 081-898 5430.

CITROEN ZX diesel, auto, 1993, K reg, power assisted steering, electric sun roof, electric front windows, five door, red, taxed until August '95, 20,000 miles, £8,275. Tel: (0451) 830187.

GREG, BEDFORD RASCAL VAN converted by KC Mobility to take a wheelchair. Complete with ramps, clamps, 2 extra removable seats, sun-roof, tinted glass, vgc, only 17,000 miles, £3,500. Tel: (0532) 863057.

MACLAREN MAJOR umbrella fold up push chair, suitable for tots to teens. £45 ono. Tel: 081-892 1426.

SHOPRIDER, two and a half-years-old, good working order, £700 ono. Tel: 021-476 9645.

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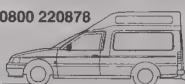
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(We will also be in Stratford Mail week commencing 14th November)
Or Ring us for an Application Form. Tel: 081 519 5843**

Trainees receive help with travel and childcare costs (subject to availability). The centre is accessible for women with disabilities.

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UNIVERSITY OF BRADFORD

The University of Bradford is offering two courses on disability issues

Challenge and Change: Disability Issues in Focus 27-29 March 1995

Images, Power and Participation 26-28 June 1995

Details available from: Short Course Unit,
University of Bradford, West Yorkshire BD7 1DP.
Tel: 0274 383217; Fax 0274 383218.

RECRUITMENT

HARINGEY DISABILITIES CONSORTIUM



Self Advocacy Development Worker for People with Learning Difficulties

Salary: £7,584.00 incl. Hours: 17.5 per week

HDC wants to employ a person with a learning difficulty to work with the Haringey People First Group. The group organises activities and empowers people with learning difficulties to speak up for themselves. The post holder will work as part of a team to provide information on services and identify gaps in services for people with learning difficulties.

Support Worker

Salary: £7,584.00 incl. Hours: 17.5 per week

HDC wants to employ a Self Advocacy Development Support Worker (preferably a disabled person), to work alongside our Self Advocacy Development Worker for People with Learning Difficulties. The two post-holders will work together to empower people with learning difficulties in Haringey, develop their self-advocacy skills and improve their access to services.

If you are interested in the posts please provide HDC with your name and address by 30th November 1994.

Information (Including tape) from Rena Allcock, 551B High Road, Tottenham, N17 6SB.

Our premises are fully accessible.

HDC aims to be an Equal Opportunities Employer.

BBC ENGINEERING

Paid Work Experience Opportunities for People With Disabilities

Following the success of previous schemes, the BBC's Engineering division is pleased to once again offer a number of subsidised work experience placements for people with disabilities.

The placements cover a range of skill areas and will be based within various Engineering departments at different locations around the country (Warwick, Daventry and Surrey). Each placement will be for a period of up to 12 weeks and it is anticipated that they will commence early January 1995 or thereabouts.

Please note only people with disabilities will be considered for these placements and candidates will have to undergo a selection process.

For an information pack and application form contact (quote ref. 16913/DI) BBC Recruitment Services, PO Box 7000, London W12 7ZY. Tel: 081-749 7000 Minicom 081-752 5151 by November 15th.

Details are also available on audio cassette if required.

Application forms to be returned by November 18th.

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North Norfolk
Character cottage. Sleeps 8 + cot. Luxury single en-suite ground floor bedroom for wheelchair user with electrically operated bed, wheelchair shower, toilet with rail and remote control colour TV. 3 further bedrooms, 2 lounges, 2 bathrooms. No pets/smokers. Tel: (0205) 367111.

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LONDON DIVISION'S POSITIVE ACTION FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

As an Equal Opportunities Employer, Barnardo's is taking action to improve employment opportunities for people with disabilities. To achieve this, applications from registered/registrable disabled candidates will be given priority and shortlisted candidates with disabilities will be interviewed first.

Non-disabled people are welcome to apply but their applications will only be considered if we are unable to appoint a person with a disability.

Assistant Project Leader

Cleevedon Project,
Independent Support Team
£17,499 - £21,603 (Bar at £19,956)

The Cleevedon Project based in South Norwood, works with young people in care, from all ethnic backgrounds, preparing them for independent living. We aim to stop the cycle of rejection by offering individual tailored programmes using a wide range of accommodation and support. (The Project also works with a number of housing associations).

You must be qualified in social work, teaching or youth and community work and have experience of working with young people who present complex needs and problems. A knowledge of Housing Management and experience of supervising volunteers or students is also essential.

An essential car user allowance is payable.
Please quote Ref.618 when applying for this post.

Children & Families Worker

Positive Options
£15,438 - £21,402 (Bar at £20,508)

Positive Options' experienced child care workers are being linked with other agencies who are already working with adults, and now wish to develop their services for parents, children and young people where someone in the family has HIV/AIDS. This post, initially based in Islington, has been assigned to work with families residing, or receiving HIV related treatment and care in Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham. The work will complement existing HIV social work in those authorities.

You will be adding a child care dimension to existing services, specifically helping parents to plan the long term care of their children. This will involve direct work with families, training, consultancy and co-working with staff in the SELHA area. You will work with families from a wide range of cultures and backgrounds who may have social and health problems in addition to coping with HIV. It is important that the service is culturally and linguistically sensitive.

A recognised social work qualification with a minimum of two years post qualification experience in a local authority social work department is essential. Detailed knowledge of child care legislation is needed and experience of working in a HIV setting would be desirable although initial training will be given.

Please quote Ref.632 when applying for this post.

Training Administrator

Burwell Park, Barkingside
£12,078 - £13,362

As Training Administrator you will be responsible for reviewing current administrative and finance systems within the training function and for the supervision of staff. You will liaise with other departments and external agencies.

You must have 3 years experience of working in a secretarial/administrative role with a typing speed of 40 wpm and excellent communication skills. Flexibility of approach and commitment to equal opportunities is required.

Interviews will be held 9th & 19th December 1994.
Please quote Ref.624 when applying for this post.

Centre Workers

Akwaaba Day Centre
£12,078 - £16,350 (Bar at £14,925)

Akwaaba provides a nursery, creche, speech therapy, toy library, portage work and parental support facilities. It offers 38 places to children under 5 in the Deptford area.

An awareness of race equality and Child Protection issues is required of all our staff. The Project building is entirely accessible to disabled people.

We require two full time and one part time (19 1/2 hrs)s qualified Centre Workers, - NNEB, BTec in Nursery Nursing, CSS-Child Care option, Cert.Ed.-Early Years. The role involves working within the group rooms and creche caring for children up to 5 years. You will focus on their all round development, self esteem and identity and will assist individual children, some of whom have special needs.

Experience in family support and group work with children under five is required. A full driving licence and ability to drive Project vehicles is essential for the part time post.

Please quote Ref.621 for full time and/or Ref.627 for part time when applying for these posts.

Part Time Play Organiser

Akwaaba Day Centre
Time Limited until July 1996
£11,604 - £12,498 pro rata

We require a part time Play Organiser (19 1/2 hrs) with at least one year's experience of working with and meeting the needs of children under 5 years.

Please quote Ref. 628 when applying for this post.

Part Time Secretarial Assistant

Families in Temporary Accommodation
£7,311 - £11,898 pro rata

Families in Temporary Accommodation based at London Bridge, provides mobile services to five London Boroughs. We have a challenging opportunity for an experienced Secretarial Assistant (20 hrs - Tuesday to Thursday, negotiable) to provide support to this very busy team.

You must have two years secretarial experience with advanced level usage of WordPerfect 5.1. Excellent communication skills and a commitment to equal opportunities are required.

Please quote Ref.633 when applying for this job.

Black people and members of other minority ethnic groups are under represented in the Division and we particularly welcome applications from these individuals.

Application forms and further details of the posts together with a statement of Barnardo's basis and values, equal opportunity policy and specific commitments we make to disabled job applicants are available in writing or on tape if requested and may be obtained from: Staff Recruitment, Barnardo's London Division, Tanners Lane, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex.IG6 1QG. Tel: 081 503 9833 (answerphone). Please quote appropriate job reference number. Closing date for all completed applications: 18 November 1994. (Charity Reg.No.216250)



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36 Park Grove Edware Middlesex HA8 7SJ
A better life provided.

Due to lack of space, the Personal column is held over until next month. We apologise for any inconvenience this causes.

DISABILITY WEST MIDLANDS PART TIME DIRECTOR

Salary: £20,000 - £22,000 p.a. pro rata

We are an established charity looking for a new director with a disability to spearhead our further development and expansion.

The person appointed (working 18.5 hours a week) will be an effective communicator and negotiator with a proven track record in policy formulation and implementation; liaison with statutory bodies, other organisations and individuals; staff management and development; budgetary planning and control; attending committees.

Car ownership is desirable, travelling expenses will be paid. Based in Birmingham, the job will involve considerable travel and the working of unsocial hours.

Application form and job information from DWM, Moseley Hall Hospital, Birmingham B13 8JL or telephone 021 449 1225.

Closing date: 19th November 1994.

SHAD Hounslow

(Support & Housing Assistance for Disabled People)

DEVELOPMENT WORKER

£17,300 pa - 36 hours p.w.

SHAD Hounslow is a new charitable organisation catering for the needs of disabled adults who wish to live independently and to purchase and manage their own care.

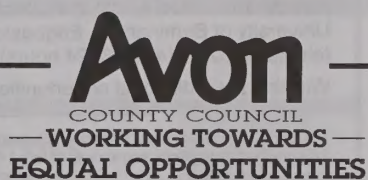
The Development Worker will join an existing Support Worker to work with a Management Committee of Users to recruit, house and support up to ten Users and their helpers over the next three years.

Tasks will include negotiation with relevant authorities, outreach work and recruitment, planning, administration, financial control and developing SHAD Hounslow's management and funding structure according to need.

The successful applicant will have appropriate management and administrative experience, good communication skills, understanding of disability and a commitment to the ethos of independent living. SHAD Hounslow operate Equal Opportunities policies and positively encourage applications from disabled people. Appropriate facilities are provided.

Application forms - SHAD Hounslow, V.A.C. 12 School Road, Hounslow, TW3 1QZ. 081 814 0910.

Closing Date for applications - Friday 25th November 1994.



TRAFFIC MANAGEMENT IN THE COUNTY OF AVON DISABILITY AND PEDESTRIAN ISSUES

- * Do you have a strong commitment to implement improvements to the highway environment for disabled people and pedestrians?
- * Do you have an awareness and understanding of the problems experienced by disabled people as users of the highway and of the needs of pedestrians?
- * Do you have the professional and technical ability to translate all these issues into workable improvement programmes, and the communication skills necessary to gain acceptance of your ideas?

We are seeking candidates with these attributes to fill the role of:

SENIOR ENGINEER - DISABILITIES AND PEDESTRIAN ISSUES OFFICER

Salary £21,216 - £22,935 pa

Your primary role on a county wide basis will be to promote the interests of disabled people and pedestrians and initiate designated pedestrian enhancement schemes as well as becoming involved with traffic management schemes with wide road user interests.

Applications are welcomed from disabled persons working in this field and whilst professional qualifications are desirable, interest, experience and demonstrable ability are more important.

For an informal discussion about the post please telephone John Mitchell on Bristol (0117) 9299074.

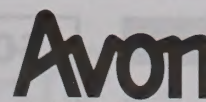
We offer excellent employment benefits including generous relocation expenses, mortgage assistance, flexible working hours, generous holiday entitlement, pension scheme.

HOW TO APPLY:

Application by form only, available with further details from the Director of Highways, Transport and Engineering, Personnel Section, Avon House North, St James Barton, Bristol BS99 7SG or telephone Bristol (0117) 9874479 (answering machine on this number after office hours).

Please quote reference number HTE/26036/6K when asking for forms which must be returned by 11th November 1994.

DEPARTMENT OF HIGHWAYS, TRANSPORT & ENGINEERING.



— WORKING TOWARDS —
EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES UNIT

Avon County Council is committed to disability equality and full civil rights for disabled people. The Council adopted a comprehensive Disability Equality Policy in 1991, and wishes to recruit the following staff to continue its active implementation.

PRINCIPAL DISABILITY EQUALITY OFFICER

(Salary Hay 5 £21,216 - £22,935)
(Post Number CCE EOP 10378/6K)

ASSISTANT DISABILITY EQUALITY OFFICER

(Salary Hay 8 £14,799 - £16,437)
(Post Number CCE EOP 10369/6K)

The **Principal Disability Equality Officer** will be lead officer for the Disability Equality (Advisory and Review) Sub Committee, and will be responsible for advising on and supporting implementation of the policy and evaluating its effectiveness across all the services and activities of the Council. She/he will support the ongoing development of consultation with disabled people through the Avon Disability Equality Forum and Local Forums. She/he will manage the work of the Disability Equality Officer (Consultation), the Assistant Disability Equality Officer (Service Users) and the Temporary Tape Service Co-ordinator.

The **Assistant Disability Equality Officer** will monitor and advise on the provision of information materials to disabled people, and develop a Code of Good Practice on information provision. She/he will also review and evaluate distribution of grant aid to voluntary organisations, and will work with individuals/groups of service users to ensure that concerns raised about services are dealt with effectively by Avon departments.

Applicants must be disabled people only with experience of working with/for local authorities and with/for disabled people's organisations. Applicants for the Principal post must be able to demonstrate successful management experience.

For further detailed information and an application form please telephone Julie Klukarski on Bristol (0272) 244474 (voice and minicom) or write to her at Equal Opportunities Unit, 6 York Court, Wilder Street, Bristol BS2 8QQ. Information available in Print, Braille or Audio-Tape. (Applications for both permanent appointments or for secondment will be considered.)

Closing date, **Wednesday 23rd November.**

Interviews for the Principal post will be held on Friday 16th December and for the Assistant post on Wednesday 14th December.



DEPARTMENT OF LEISURE AND COMMUNITY SERVICES

The newly created Department of Leisure and Community Services is the largest in the United Kingdom. It has over 3,500 employees delivering a diverse range of services from Parks and Leisure Centre Management to Youth and Community together with Museums and Library Services. In fact, the range of services is only matched by the diversity of lifestyles of our customers and service users.

We are committed to eliminating all forms of discrimination. We recognise that it can only happen when equality issues are put into action in our employment practices and in all our services at every level.

To assist us in achieving this, we are establishing an Equal Opportunities Team and we now seek the following:

ASSISTANT EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES OFFICER

£18,894 - £22,362 (pay award pending). **Ref: M149**

Your primary task will be to assist in the development and review of the Department's equality policies and strategies.

You will be required to provide advice and support to Officers on generic equality issues, both in employment and in the delivery of services.

You will have accomplished interpersonal and communication skills, knowledge of institutional discrimination and related legislation together with the ability to establish and develop effective working relationships.

EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES ASSISTANT

£12,624 - £15,288 (pay award pending). **Ref: M150**

You will provide support and assistance to the Equal Opportunities Team by undertaking research, analytical and administrative work.

Your key task will be to collate and analyse monitoring data and to establish an information resource base on equality issues.

You will be able to demonstrate an awareness of equality issues and information research techniques. In addition, you will possess numeracy and computer literacy skills and be an able communicator.

If you feel you have the ability to undertake either of these important functions and have a commitment to Equal Opportunities we would like to hear from you.

Informal enquiries to Satvinder Rana, Equal Opportunities Officer, on 021 235 4247.

For an application form and further details please write to The Director, Department of Leisure and Community Services, P.O. Box 2122, Baskerville House, Broad Street, Birmingham B1 2NE or telephone 021 235 4253 (24 hour answering service). Please quote appropriate ref. Closing date: 18th November 1994.



Birmingham City Council

The City Council welcomes applications from all sections of the community, irrespective of race, colour, gender, sexuality or disability.
Job Sharers welcome, no partner necessary



WANTED

KERBCLIMBING powered electric wheelchair, up to £1,000. Tel: (0422) 349319.

SMALL CAR OR VAN for wheelchair ramp or lift. Tel: (0325) 357673.

PARTIALLY SIGHTED PERSON would like to buy king-sized PC computer keyboard plus any other computer hardware/software to enable use of wordprocessor etc. Tel: (0524) 37375 ask for Gerald.

CHANGE - COUNCIL FOR PEOPLE WITH LEARNING AND SENSORY DISABILITIES wishes to appoint an **Administrator/Outreach Worker** **Salary £7,500 for 18.5 hours a week**

You will publicise CHANGE'S work to Disabled People as well as carry out the administration tasks of the organisation. You must have an understanding of Disability Rights issues as they relate to people with learning difficulties.

This post is only open to disabled people.

The post is part funded by Remploy so you will need to be registered disabled and applicable for part funding by Remploy under section 2.

Closing date for applications is Thursday December 1st.

Job descriptions and further information are available from Philippa Bragman, **CHANGE, 11-13 Clifton Terrace, Finsbury Park, London N4 3SR. Tel: 071-272 3526. Minicom: 071-272 9648.**

Please state if you require information on tape or in Braille. The CHANGE office is accessible.

Derbyshire Centre for Integrated Living PERSONAL SUPPORT SERVICES MANAGER

DCIL wishes to appoint a disabled person to manage and develop our Personal Support Services Project.

This innovative scheme provides enabling support and personal assistance to disabled people who wish to develop and be in control of their own community living arrangements.

The successful candidate will be a good communicator, be able to demonstrate an appropriate level of educational attainment, have a sound knowledge of the workings of local government and a proven ability to negotiate resources within a complex financial framework. He or she will support the broad objectives of the Disabled People's Movement and its efforts to secure civil rights for disabled people through legislation.

Salary will be in the range £15,903 - £16,962 p.a. plus essential car users allowance and mileage. In the first instance this appointment is for one year only.

For further details and application form contact: DCIL, Long Close, Ripley, Derbyshire DE5 3HY. Phone: 01773 740246. Minicom: 01773 748452

Closing date for applications is 15th November 1994

DCIL is an Equal Opportunities Employer.

SOCs DEVELOPMENT WORKERS FOR HAMPSHIRE'S SELF OPERATED CARE SCHEME

Hampshire Self Operated Care Scheme (SOCs) is for independently minded people who want to manage their own care. It started 10 years ago in response to user demand and has been heralded as a leader in its field.

Now, in a recent exciting development we wish to appoint 3 full (or nearly full-time) SOC's Development Workers to promote greater awareness of the scheme and to encourage and support people in the use of SOC's.

Applicants must be committed to an independent living lifestyle and able to explain this to others.

Work may be from home or office based. Considerable help and support will be provided via a Management committee together with the employing agency but the successful applicant must be a self motivator and able to work independently. Applicants will be asked to indicate what practical support they will require to provide optimum services.

We are looking for one worker in each of the 3 districts of Hampshire (South East, South West and North & Central District). There will be a local district employing agency for each post.

The posts are for a 12 months contract with extension being subject to probationary review at 6 months and subsequently at 12 months.

Only Disabled People need apply.

Salary: £14,319 - £15,188 (pro rata)

For informal discussion contact Georgiana Robertson, Trafalgar House, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8UQ. Tel: 0962 847270.

For application details contact:

Central & North District - Alison Way, Winchester District Council for Community Service, The Winchester Centre, Parchment Street, Winchester, Hampshire SO23 8AZ.

South West District - David Gibson, Southampton Centre for Independent Living (SCIL), 6 Northland Road, Southampton SO1 2LF.

South East District - John Baker, Portsmouth Council of Community Service, 338 Commercial Road, Portsmouth, Hampshire PO1 4BT.

Closing date for applications 25th November 1994. Interviews will be held in the week of 12-16th December 1994. If you would like details of this post in other formats (tape, large print) please ask.

Required as soon as possible to join a small team of professional workers serving disabled people in Islington.

FINANCE/FUNDRAISER

17.5 hours a week. Scale SO 1 (pro rata)
Some limited evening and weekend work.

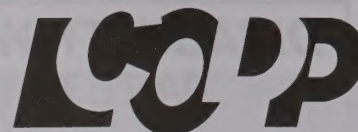
Duties will include seeking out new sources of revenue and provision of sound financial arrangements.

Applicants will have accounting and budgeting skills, a successful record of fund raising, be self servicing and able to work on their own initiative within a team environment. Must be computer literate with Sage, Excel and Word.

Call 071-226 0137 or write for details to IDA 91, Upper Street, London N1 ONP for details and application forms.

Closing date for applications: 25 November 1994.
Interviews will be held on: 5 December 1994.

Islington Disablement Association is an Equal Opportunities Employer and welcomes applicants from all sections of the Community.



LAMBETH COALITION OF DISABLED PEOPLE

**CENTRE FOR INTEGRATED LIVING
BARSTOW CRESCENT
PALACE ROAD, LONDON SW2 3NS
TELEPHONE: 081-671 8892
MINICOM: 081-671 9179
FAX: 081-671 9078**

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN WORKING WITH A PROJECT WHICH ENABLES LOCAL DISABLED PEOPLE TO DEVELOP THEIR OWN ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES?

LCOOP has set up the Lambeth Centre for Integrated Living, a new form of organisation through which disabled people themselves plan and develop activities and services with local disabled people. We now have a vacancy for a full-time:

CENTRE ASSISTANT MANAGER (35 hours)
Salary - £17,988 p.a. (Inclusive of London Weighting)

The post-holder shall manage the day to day running of the Centre, and work closely with local disabled people to fully exploit the Centre's potential for developing alternative activities and services. The post-holder will need to have an ability to supervise staff, as well as some knowledge and/or experience of running a Centre. It is our policy to employ disabled people, and an able-bodied person will only be appointed if there is no suitable disabled applicant for this post.

The LCOOP has an Equal Opportunities commitment to respond to the needs of disabled people from all sections of the community. Applications are invited from disabled people irrespective of gender, race and ethnic origin and from disabled lesbians and gay men. People from Black and Ethnic Minorities are currently under-represented within our staff team and are therefore encouraged to apply.

For an application pack, we would prefer you to write to the CIL office at the above address. **No C.V.'s please.**

Application packs can be made available in large print, tape, braille or disk. Working premises are fully accessible to wheelchair users.

Closing date for completed applications: **Friday 25th November 1994.**

Please note: Shortlisting shall take place between 6th - 8th December, and interviews shall take place between 12th - 14th December 1994 respectively.

REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1001112

THE UNIVERSITY OF BIRMINGHAM DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL POLICY AND SOCIAL WORK RESEARCH FELLOW

We are seeking someone with experience of qualitative research and the disability field to study disabled people's access to local authority assessment under the National Health Services and Community Care Act.

Applicants should have a social science degree and be able to work collaboratively with disabled people and their organisations. Applications from people with disabilities are particularly welcome.

Salary in the range of £13,941 - £15,566 a year.

Informal enquiries to Ann Davies on 021 414 5720.

The post is for 21 months, from January 1995.

Interviews will be held on 7th December 1994.

Application forms (returnable by 21st November 1994) and further particulars available from the Director of Staffing Services, The University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham B15 2TT, telephone 021 414 6483 (24 hours), quoting reference C11207/94.

Working towards equal opportunities

The University is an exempt Charity which exists to advance learning to the highest level for the benefit of its students and society at large.

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW TECHNICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER

£12,456 - £13,761 per annum inclusive of London Weighting

We are currently looking to appoint 1.5 Administrative Officers based within our Client Services Division. The role of the section is to provide a total service for the receipt, recording, processing and progressing of request and enquiries concerning the maintenance of Council owned property.

The necessary requirements for this post are typing/key-board skills, telephone skills and the ability to communicate both verbally and in writing with members of the public.

Benefits include flexible working hours, job share scheme and workplace nursery.

Applications are particularly welcome from people with a disability as they are under represented within the department.



Application forms and further details are available from the Personnel Office, PO Box 57, Civic Centre, Station Road, Harrow, Middlesex, HA1 2UZ. Telephone 081 424 1439

Closing date is 14 November 1994

AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER



WORKING FOR DISABLED PEOPLE'S RIGHTS

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL is determined to eliminate discrimination against disabled people in both its employment practice and the delivery of its services.

Southampton is a multi-racial City with an active disability movement. The City Council is aware that certain groups are under represented in its workforce. These are women, disabled people, Black and ethnic minority people. The City Council regularly reviews its employment practices and takes positive actions to improve them.

All disabled applicants who meet the basic criteria for a post will be shortlisted and interviewed in advance of non-disabled applicants.

The City Council has a variety of employment schemes including job-share, child care subsidy, flexible working hours, carers leave etc. Where a Job has a requirement that the employee is mobile the Council has a scheme for disabled employees who are unable to drive because of their disability. All Southampton City Council vacancies are advertised in the Thursday edition of the Southern Daily Echo. A regular bulletin of City Council jobs, is also produced and is available on request.

For further information please contact Adnan Chaudry, Personnel Officer (Equality Services) on (0703) 832642 or MINICOM (0703) 832576.



Senior Policy and Planning Officer

(Please quote ref: SENPOL)

We are looking for either two part-time or one full-time officer to join our busy Policy, Planning and Research Department.

Working closely with the PRPD Director, Senior staff of the Arts Council of England and the Regional Arts Boards, the successful candidate will help lead and influence the development and implementation of corporate policy, both for the Arts Council and for the single funding system. As part of this brief the postholder(s) will also take responsibility for the monitoring of current ACE action plans for Cultural Diversity (in respect of Black & Asian Arts) and/or Arts and Disability and also Women in the Arts, including management of the relevant Monitoring Committee.

Applicants must have several years' work experience in a senior, policy driven position (preferably in the arts), extensive knowledge of the arts funding system and current issues affecting the sector, the ability to negotiate, influence, persuade and liaise effectively at all levels, excellent monitoring, planning, report writing and communication skills. A broad knowledge of one or more of the specialist areas - Black & Asian Arts and Arts and Disability, gained through extensive work experience in the field is also required. Regular travel around the UK will be necessary.

Salary on a scale £19,261 to £24,785pa (which currently includes an RRA of £1,776pa).

It is expected that a registered disabled person will fill at least 50% of this position.

Part-time Assistant

20.5 hours per week (Please quote ref: ASST)

We are also looking for an experienced Assistant to provide an efficient secretarial and administrative service for the Senior Officer(s) advertised above. This is a crucial role within the department, as the Assistant will act as a linch pin for all the areas of the Senior Officer(s)' work and will also be responsible for servicing the monitoring committees.

Applicants must have at least 2 years' secretarial experience, fast and accurate word processing skills, experience of arranging and minuting meetings and effective communication and organisational skills. Knowledge of arts and disability and cultural diversity issues is highly desirable.

Salary is on a scale ranging from £11,656 - £14,801pa (which currently includes an RRA of £1,776pa).

For further details and an application form, please send a large (at least 8"x5") self-addressed envelope, quoting the relevant reference, to the Personnel Department, Arts Council, 14 Great Peter Street, London SW1P 3NQ. Alternatively, telephone 071-973 6449 between 10am and 4pm only. Minicom users may contact the Council on 071-973 6564 (for deaf callers only).

If you need any help in making your application or would like to receive the details in either large print, braille or on audio tape, please contact us on the above number.

Closing date for receipt of applications: 30th November 1994, absolute latest.

The interview date for those shortlisted for the Senior Policy and Planning Officer post will be 15th December. Interviews for the Assistant will be held early in the new year, so that the appointed Officer(s) can participate in the interview. The cost of a signer, or other facilitation for the interview will be met by the Arts Council, if required.

The Arts Council is committed to an equal opportunities recruitment policy. Registered disabled people are currently under-represented within our workforce and their applications will be considered first.

THE ARTS COUNCIL OF ENGLAND

HEAD OF EMPLOYEE RELATIONS
(PERSONNEL AND EQUALITY
RECRUITMENT)
£29,338 - £31,737
INCLUDING LONDON WEIGHTING
SALARY RANGE MANAGEMENT SPINE 9 - 12
REF: HRM1



HACKNEY

An exciting opportunity to contribute to the management of change in an expanding sector.

Hackney Community College is a large post 16 education institution with over 15,000 students, studying academic, recreational and vocational courses. A recently approved £30m capital project will take us from 12 sites to 3 over the next 3 years.

We are seeking to recruit a Head of Employee Relations (Personnel and Equality Recruitment). The position is responsible to the Director of Corporate Services for the development of the College's Human Resource function.

The College has an establishment of 500 full-time staff over 700 part-timers on a range of contracts and conditions of service.

Staff include lecturers, managers, technical and support staff. The College has recently restructured its management structure as a part of its strategy for improved efficiency, quality and growth.

Candidates are likely to have experience of working in a unionised public sector organisation, further or higher education or public sector environment in a management position with responsibility for personnel and industrial relations. Corporate membership of IPM/IPD is a pre-requisite, as is a first degree.

Applications should be made in writing or by sending a postcard detailing the position you are interested in and also quoting the reference number to: The Director of Corporate Services, Hackney Community College, Brooke House, Kenninghall Road, London E5 8BP or by telephoning 081-525 8222.

Applicants for all posts must be fully committed to implementing the College's Equal Opportunities Policy. All applications are considered on merit, with equal opportunities for women, black and ethnic minorities, lesbians and gay men and people with disabilities.

Closing date for applications: 9 November 1994



CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSISTANTS

c.£7,500 - c.£12,000 - London/M25

WE'RE INTERESTED IN WHAT YOU CAN DO, NOT WHAT YOU CAN'T.

Your abilities are more important to Nationwide than your disabilities. We'll give you all the practical assistance you need, but our support is directed at building your career, not setting you apart for special treatment.

As a member of the Employers Forum on Disability and holder of the Investors in People certificate, we can offer you a week's induction course plus regular training which will lead to an NVQ.

Not that you will ever really stop learning, as you'll be involved in so much. You will gain experience serving on the till, helping out with the admin, and answering customer enquiries.

Clearly, financial services experience would be helpful, but it isn't essential. It's more important that you're articulate, well-organised and have English and Maths to GCSE level. The ability to get on well with a wide range of people is also important, as you'll be helping

customers from every walk of life get the best from their finances.

If that sounds like you and you're able to work some Saturday mornings, we can promise good benefits, including a concessionary mortgage, plus one of the friendliest working atmospheres around.

The benefits will be the same wherever you join us in London or the Home Counties, but your salary will depend on where you work and your level of experience. Get in touch and find out which branch you'd like to join.

For an application form and further information please write to, Catrina Miskelly, Retail Human Resources, Nationwide Building Society, Akehurst Court, 86a High Street, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN13 1LP.

(We operate a no smoking policy in all our branches)

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CROSSWORD ANSWERS

ACROSS: 1. Justice of the
9. Ahem 10. Drooped
11. Garb 12. Catering
14. Andy 16. Assists
20. Tsar 21. Yelp 24. Nap
26. Peace 27. Dye
28. Treehouse

DOWN: 1. Judiciary
2. Spouted 3. In part
4. Endings 5. Fag
6. Thank 7. Her
8. Emblems 13. His
15. Yippee 17. Stress
18. Sandy 19. Tray
22. Ever 23. Halo
25. Peep.

TRIVIA QUIZ ANSWERS

1. Table Tennis 2. Jeremy
Paxman 3. Harvard
4. Capri 5. Tabasco
6. Hugh Grant 7. Gary
Sobers and Ravi Shastri
8. Drop the Dead Donkey
9. The Japanese equivalent
to chess 10. Gary Cooper

Deadlines for December
issue: booking by 11 Novem-
ber, camera ready artwork/
copy by 15 November.

Raglan Housing Association Ltd

The Association delivers housing services to over 6,000 homes through eight area and local offices in the South, the Midlands and the North West. We provide housing for a range of client groups, including people who are homeless or poorly housed, disabled people of all ages, retired people, families and others in housing need.

We are an Equal Opportunities Employer. We welcome applications from suitably qualified and experienced people, regardless of race, gender, religion, disability, age or sexual orientation.

Anyone interested in working for Raglan or in finding out further information about current or future vacancies should write to the Personnel Officer, Raglan Housing Association Limited, Wright House, 12-14 Castle Street, Poole, Dorset BH15 1BQ. Alternatively, you will see our job advertisements placed in your local newspaper or in specialist journals such as Housing Association Weekly or Inside Housing.

We may not have any vacancies at present but will be happy to keep your details on file and contact you if and when the type of vacancy you are interested in arises.



Raglan Housing Association

World records crash at Sheffield

An unprecedented 18 world records crashed during the British Association for the Disabled's National Open Swimming Championships at Sheffield in September.

The field of 207 included competitors from Belgium, Holland, Germany and Slovakia, but it was British swimmers who set the pace.

Helen Lewis, from Fife, was in outstanding form. She improved her own SM8 400m individual medley world record with a time of 7:49:49 after setting championship bests in the S8 100m freestyle and the 100m butterfly races.

"I'm really thrilled with my performances here," said Lewis. "Three records was a lot more than I expected."

Other world record holders included Giles Long, from Braintree, who beat the male SM8 400m individual medley mark with a time of 6:20:96,



In the swim: British swimmers dominated the Open Championships

GRAHAM BOOL PHOTOGRAPHY

and Roz Hardiman, from Portsmouth, who won the S7 200m backstroke in a time of 3:38:64.

Anna Tizzard, of Fife, won the SM9 400m individual medley with a time of 21:88 seconds and Iain Matthews, from Glenrothes, is the new SB8 400m breaststroke champion. He won his race in 2:56:04.

Stockport's Sarah Bailey, made all the headlines last year by breaking 18 world records. This year she underlined her international class by winning a staggering nine races in two days. But it was not enough to win her the leading female swimmer award.

That honour went to Jeanette Easling, from Slough, who won four events in the tougher S7 class.

The men's winner was Rutger Sturkenham, a law student from Holland.

Chinese ban disabled athlete

A leading Chinese athlete, whose legs were crushed by a tank during the Tiananmen Square demonstration, has been banned from the Far Eastern and South Pacific Disabled Games in Peking.

Chinese officials, worried that Fang Zheng's participation

in the discus event would lead to damaging publicity about the 1989 massacre of democracy supporters, told him at the last minute that he could not compete. Fang, who lost his legs at the demonstration, is one of China's leading disabled discus throwers and had been

training hard for the annual event.

Deng Pufang, chairperson of the Chinese Disabled Persons' Federation, is reported to have said that Fang could compete if he did not speak to journalists but officials changed their minds.

Boccia first for Britain

The World Boccia Championships will take place in Sheffield this month.

More than 80 players from 26 countries around the world, including Argentina, Austria and Spain, will compete in the championships, which run from 13-20 November.

Although originally scheduled to take place in Toronto, Sheffield offered to host the championships after an eleventh-hour cancellation by the Canadians.

The event is an important qualifying event for the 1996 Atlanta Paralympics.

Disability Now



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Buy Christmas cards by DN artists!



Mr Pudding Head by Vanessa Gillett

(left, 10 cards for £2.20) and **Madonna & Child** by Maureen Farish (right, 10 cards for £2.60) were both shortlisted in the DN Christmas card competition, open to artists with disabilities.

Order them early and you won't be disappointed!

Please send me:

.....packs of Mr Pudding Head at £2.20 each = £

.....packs of Madonna & Child at £2.60 each = £

Please add 50p p&p

I enclose a cheque/postal order made payable to *Disability Now* for £

Name.....

Address.....

PostcodeTel.....

Send this form with your cheque to *Disability Now*, 12 Park Crescent, London W1N 4EQ. Please allow 21 days for delivery.